



The Naperville

VOTER

August 2009

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Website - <http://www.naperville.il.lwv.org/>

Calendar

August

9 – *Rod Blagojevich Superstar*, performance by Second City at Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, 12:15 pm.

26 – *Women’s Equality Day*, 89th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment.

September

8 – Board Meeting, 7 pm

16 – Fall Roundtable Meeting, 7 pm, Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 20 North Center Street

October

7 - DuPage County-wide Kick-Off Rally: Complete Count Census 2010
7 p.m. College of DuPage

President’s Letter

Hi, Everyone!

I hope the cool summer is bringing you some enjoyable vacation times!

Before you know it, September will be here and we’ll be gearing up in the League to put our adopted action focuses and new study into operation. Please think about how you can be an active part of these interests and concerns.

I seem to ask you to do that in every letter that appears in the Voter!

- It’s never too late!
- There are no contributions too small!
- There is no spark of interest too tiny to be fanned into a warm blaze!

Please take this as a personal invitation to help make a difference in your community and support in a new way the active League members who give some of their time for all of us.

An enticing list of potential pursuits can be found in this Voter. One of them is calling your name!

Jane Barnes



An Afternoon of Illinois Political Satire

Sunday, August 9 at 12:15

Total Cost: Only \$45!

Board a bus with us...

...For the 3 pm matinee performance of *Rod Blagojevich, Superstar* at Navy Pier

This Second City production has received rave reviews. The bus will deliver us to Navy Pier in time for a snack and/or stroll on the Pier, and we'll be picked up and delivered to our Naperville gathering point right after the show. Dinner in Naperville on our own!

A modest fundraiser for the League and good conversation on the road!

Family, friends, neighbors, significant others all welcome!

We will meet at 12:15 pm at the downtown Naperville train station where we will board the League Limo (mini bus) for the trip. We will arrive at Navy Pier in time to enjoy the Pier and have a quick bite to eat before the performance. The show lasts about 1 hour 30 minutes, and we will return to Naperville immediately after the performance.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot early through Annette's [EVITE](#), by emailing her at SecondCity@naperville.il.lwv.org or calling her at 630 420-2764. Or call Jane Barnes at 630 820-0255.

September Membership and Guest Meeting: Roundtable – What's on Your Mind?

**Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
20 North Center Street
Wednesday, September 16, 7 p.m.**

A lively set of round-robin discussions traditionally kicks off our League year. This year's topics:

The 2010 Census: Why should we care?

Study Update: Information on forms of Municipal government Representation

Let the Sun Shine: Engines of Ethics in Government

Touch base with your fellow Leaguers. Bring a friend. Enjoy refreshments and energizing conversation. You can pay your dues for 2009-2010, too!

Welcome, New Officers and Board of Directors!

At the June 15 meeting, the board confirmed appointments for treasurer and an additional board member, for a one-year term.

President	Jane Barnes	jbarnes114@ntsource.com	630-820-0255
Vice President	Mary Wright	mtwrightnaperville@hotmail.com	630-901-4635
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	Dianne McGuire	diannegreenwood@comcast.net	630-420-8502
	Annette Smith	prspt@aol.com	630-420-2764

All members are welcome at all board meetings, which are usually scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month. There will be no meeting in August. Consult the Voter or call the president to confirm locations each month.

Local Government Ethics Survey

The League of Women Voters of Naperville plans to survey local governments in DuPage County to determine the types of training they provide to their elected and appointed officials, their staff on the topics of ethics, FOIA and Open Meetings and how often they conduct these programs.

Units of government to be surveyed include cities, villages, fire protection districts, county, townships, school districts and other public bodies suggested by participants as the activity progresses. All Leagues in DuPage County have been invited to participate in the study under the leadership of LWVN Vice President Mary Wright. For more information or to get involved, contact the League: EthicsStudy@naperville.il.lwv.org or call Mary at 630-901-4635.

Check the Calendar page on our website for information about meeting times and locations for this project as they become available.

FYI from The Daily Herald, July 29: Ethical treatment **By Robert Sanchez bsanchez@dailyherald.com**

"Critics say proposed revisions to the DuPage County Election Commission's ethics rules don't go far enough. [The draft of the proposed amendments will be posted on the commission's Web site so it can be reviewed by the public. "



Volunteer Now!

A Partial, Tempting List of Opportunities For Members in 2009

- ❑ Survey Ethics Training for Local Government Bodies. Compile a record of practices in Naperville and other DuPage County municipalities
- ❑ Should Naperville adopt a system of district representation? Join the study committee that has begun to gather information for a local Consensus by the first of the year.
- ❑ Help organize a media panel to discuss the role of new and traditional sources of news and information on elections and informed voter pools
- ❑ Become a voter service intern to learn logistics of candidate forums and other election opportunities the League is known for.
- ❑ Follow local government meetings to track rising and ongoing issues of interest to League.
- ❑ Develop contacts with schools to find ways of connecting to civics education for young people
- ❑ Become our Internet guru! Help your League make use of new technology such as Facebook and Twitter.
- ❑ Offer your home for a membership event or social gathering.
- ❑ Help to make a plan for membership outreach to new populations: New residents, new retirees, young professionals, special interests.....
- ❑ Handle hospitality for our occasional public meetings: name tags, refreshments, ambience
- ❑ Help to develop a plan for working on our visible image in the community. How do we let people know about the League's activities, advocacy positions, history?
- ❑ Be an archivist for news coverage. Clip articles from local papers and websites about League action.
- ❑ Follow up on developments on the DuPage County Board of Elections with regard to voting mechanisms.

Does the spirit move you? Call Jane at 630 820-0255 to get started!

Visit Our Website: <http://www.naperville.il.lwv.org/>
Watch our website for news and programs you won't want to miss.

National League Priority: Health Care Reform

Don't forget that you can play a part in health care reform! Now is the time to be informed and speak out. These articles will help you sort through some of the ideas under consideration. The first is article is from the League of Women Voters of the United States. It provides information and context for the ongoing discussions in Congress. See the LWVUS website for additional information and action opportunities.

Understanding Healthy Competition: How To Structure Public Health Insurance Plan Choice To Ensure Risk-Sharing, Cost Control And Quality Improvement

(Courtesy of the Berkeley Center on Health, Economic & Family Security, UC Berkeley School of Law, & Institute for America's Future)

By Sue Bredensteiner

In April 2009, Jacob S. Hacker, PhD, professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley and co-director of the Berkeley Center on Health, Economic & Family Security at the UC Berkeley School of Law, issued the *Healthy Competition* brief. It notes that the health care reform debate is increasingly focused on inclusion of "public plan choice." Such a new public health insurance would operate within a national insurance Exchange and be modeled after Medicare. It would allow Americans, who are under 65 years of age and do not have employer-based health insurance, to enroll in a quality, affordable care plan offered through a network of providers across the country.

Properly structured, the new public plan would compete with private insurance on a level playing field, and have authority of bargaining power as one of its tools to achieve greater value in health care delivery. The goal: a health system where private and public plans compete side by side and are rewarded when they deliver better value and health outcomes to their clients. A new public plan offers stability, quality, affordable care, and high standards. Private plans provide pressure for innovation in care management and benefit design as well as an alternative for people who find that the public plan does not serve their needs.

WHAT WOULD A PUBLIC PLAN DO?

- Promotes healthy competition between public and private health insurance alternatives on a level playing field.
- Places a crucial check on both the public and private plans encouraging them to remedy inherent weaknesses.
- Provides proven cost controls through lower premiums, lower out-of-pocket costs, and a long-term ability to restrain costs.
- Spurs improved quality of care.
- Establishes a hybrid model that builds on the best elements of existing public programs and private benefits while ensuring health security that current health financing plans do not provide.
- Safeguards and improves the Medicare model by upgrading the program.
- Offers a sensible, practical way based on established programs and models for nonelderly Americans without secure workplace insurance to obtain group coverage for quality, affordable care through a broad choice of providers in all parts of the country.

HOW WOULD A PUBLIC PLAN WORK?

- Initiates a Health Insurance Exchange that interfaces easily with current employee sponsored group coverage and public programs (Medicaid, CHIPRA) to provide access to Exchange-offered public or private plans.

- Retains employment-based insurance in which employers continue to help pay premiums for privately purchased coverage.
- Requires employer contributions to the exchange for those who do not offer health coverage.
- Continues coverage for people currently covered by existing public programs (Medicaid, CHIPRA).
- Provides coverage for people younger than 65 without workplace insurance or access under an existing public program through the Exchange, which will be safeguarded by a separate administrative body for the new public plan, along with rules, risk adjustment, and regional pricing to ensure a level playing field for public and private plans.
- Structures the new public plan to provide *national* terms for patients and providers; *governmental* rather than nonprofit administration under federal charter; *comprehensive* defined benefits on the same administrative platform; *built on Medicare's infrastructure*, using the basic overall structure of Medicare as a foundation for the new plans operations, such as using existing regional and national public administrative bodies and services of insurer who currently act as carriers by processing payments.
- Operates under *rules* that apply to private and public plans: *Community rating*—all plans charge the same rates to all subscribers; *Guaranteed issue*—all plans take everyone who wants to be in them; *Limits on marketing*—choice is based on objective information provided by the Exchange administrator; *Standardized and defined benefits*—at minimum, all plans offer a benefit package that meets a basic actuarial standards, covers the same full range of benefits, and has the same maximum limits on out-of-pocket spending; *Reserve requirements*—private plans must have adequate reserves, the public plan has the full faith and credit of the federal government; *Transparency*—all plans clearly state their terms and open their books for basic review of spending and revenues.
- Recognizes a need for *risk adjustment* that allows plans to be paid different amounts by the exchange based on the expected and realized risk of their enrollees so that neither enrollees nor plans are penalized when a plan attracts less healthy participants.
- Enacts a *regional pricing system* that ensures plans compete fairly with each other within geographic regions and relative disparities in plan costs are reflected in premiums that enrollees pay.
- Uses a *regionally based competitive bidding process* in which plans submit bids to provide standardized benefit packages within the nationally administrated Exchange (benefits provided will vary modestly to encourage plan diversity but within a common baseline for comparing bids).
- Authorizes *countervailing bargaining power* to ensure better rates and controlled costs without evidence of reduced access or impaired health.
- Offers a reasonable number of meaningful choices in which public plans offer stability, wide pooling of risks, affordability of premiums, broad provider access, capacity to collect and use pertinent information on a large scale to improve care.

Sources:

Hacker JS. 2008. *The Case for Public Plan Choice in National Health Reform*.

www.law.berkeley.edu/files/bclbe/Hacker_final_to_post.pdf

Hacker JS. 2009. *Healthy Competition*. www.law.berkeley.edu (search for “healthy competition” to find pdf of brief.)

Sue Bredensteiner (LWVTN) is a member of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force.

Produced by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009
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From LWVUS: Members Are The Nominating Committee

The September 30 deadline for nominations for the 2010-2012 LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee is fast approaching. Is there someone in your League you think would be an outstanding candidate to fill one of these positions? If so, it's up to you to nominate that person – or urge him or her to self-nominate.

Why is this so important? Contrary to what our name might imply, the LWVUS Nominating Committee (unlike local League nominating committees) *doesn't actually nominate anyone*. We build the slate using only the names given to us by members. If we don't get a name from you, that person – however well qualified – won't be in the running for a position on the slate. So, in a sense, the Nominating Committee is made up of all League members.

We are truly dependent for our success on strong League member participation in this process in order to have a large pool of nominees to select from when building the 2010-2012 slate. That will only happen if members like you tell us about the leaders you admire.

If you go to the *For Members* area in lwv.org and click on the *Call for Nominations* box on the right side of the page you will find a list of resources that provide information about the Committee and our work. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. The postmark deadline for nominations is September 30.

Remember: **LWV is US!**

LWVUS Nominating Committee

Chair: Robbie Davis (robbiedav@aol.com)

Members: Pam Goodman, Carolie Mullan, Sandy Powell, Marlys Robertson.

Naperville League Study-In-Progress: City Council Representation

Study Committee Jack Barry, Connie Burns, and Joan Norman have met to begin inquiries about options for electing representatives to the City Council. Here are some of the topics related to the issue:

- Analysis of district representation systems in cities over 100,000
- Past history regarding local district representation referenda
- Naperville Homeowners' Associations statistics
- Illinois statutes relating to home rule, population, and local government changes
- Demographics of city councils past and present
- Campaign spending in recent elections
- Voter turnout statistics by election and geographical area
- Controversial issues that divide a community

Your input would be welcome! Much of the research can be done at home, and committee meetings occur at the convenience of members. Get a boost in your civic energy and join in the satisfaction that comes from working together for knowledge, consensus, and action! Contact Jane Barnes for more information.



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