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LWV Chautauqua County  
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Inside This Issue

About Our Speaker	2
From the President	3
Peoples Report on Health Care	4
Health Care Act	5
Letters from Elizabeth and Susan B.	6
Calendar of Events	7
Membership Form	8



# The Leaguer

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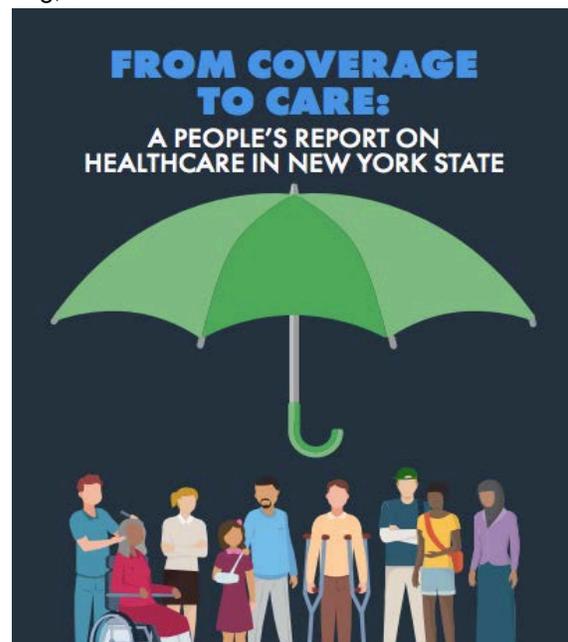
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY  
[lww@lwwchautauqua.org](mailto:lww@lwwchautauqua.org), 672-4275

EVENING HOT TOPIC MEETING

## Telling Your Healthcare Stories

With Ursula Rozum, Health Rights and Access  
Project Coordinator  
Physicians for a National  
Health Program NY-Metro

March 18, 2020  
6:30 to 9:00PM  
JCC-North, 10807 Bennett Rd, Dunkirk





### About Our Program...

This event offers a great opportunity for members of the Chautauqua County community to learn about sharing stories about our experiences with healthcare.

In May 2019 the Campaign for NY Health published the results of a study entitled "From Coverage to Care: A People's Report on Healthcare in New York," which illustrates the severity

of healthcare insecurity facing New Yorkers. Researchers found that 50% of insured New Yorkers struggle to get needed healthcare. They found that women, people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, and transgender people are disproportionately negatively impacted by the current healthcare system. So the Campaign for NY Health developed trainings intended to bring people together to talk about their experiences with healthcare, and to learn how to become powerful advocates for meaningful reform.

During the approximately 2.5 hour training, participants will:

- discuss the findings of "The People's Report on Healthcare in New York" and principles of healthcare human rights;
- learn and practice healthcare storytelling best practices; and
- learn about opportunities to share their healthcare stories in advocacy for universal healthcare.

Sharing stories is a powerful way to connect with others. Telling your personal story can allow you to focus a discussion on people rather than policies and laws. You can learn to tell your story in more compelling ways in conversations, at events in support of your cause, and for lobbying with elected officials.

**Please register for this event by March 11th in order for the League to have an accurate count for workbooks, handouts, and snacks. To register, contact Mary Croxton at (716) 673-5197.**

Narrative medicine has become a prominent method of developing more empathetic relationships between medical clinicians and patients, on the basis of a deeper understanding of the patient experience. Beyond its usefulness during clinical encounters, patient storytelling can inform processes and procedures in Advisory Councils, Committee Meetings, and Family as Faculty settings, leading to improved quality and safety in health care. Armed with a better understanding of the patient experience, clinicians and administrators can make decisions, hopefully in collaboration with patients, that will enrich the patient experience and increase satisfaction among patients, families, and staff.

## From the President

It was a cold and blustery day on February 14, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary day for the National League of Women Voters. Despite this an intrepid group of Leaguers went to two locations to register voters. Many of us stood outside. Thank you to all who participated in this event and did not have cold feet about registering voters until you got there. The Voter Services team also registered students to vote and gave out information about voting at the SUNY Fredonia Civic Action Forum at the Williams Center.

Voter services representative have been working with a group of students at SUNY Fredonia and the Democracy Initiative Group. We are planning to have a meeting with this group and other local groups on how to lobby your representative. This will take place on April 2, 2020 at the University. The speaker will be Jennifer Wilson, who is The Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State. Ms. Wilson is a strong public speaker who regularly presents complex materials to forums. She does research and lobbies on legislation and policy issues regarding election reforms, good government practices, women's equality, healthcare, campaign financing, and redistricting. The legislature will be on break after this and we can put our skills to work with our representatives.

We are also inviting a speaker to give us information about the New York Health Act and provide instruction on how to lobby for health care. The New York Health Act is a universal health care coverage bill based on your ability to pay. The New York Health Act bill is Senate Bill S357 and Assembly Bill A05248. There is more information about the presentation, reservations, and the NY Health Act in this Leaguer. This presentation will be on March 18<sup>th</sup> at JCC.

Voter registration forms and information about voting can be found at our Fredonia and Dunkirk libraries and Literacy Volunteers along with displays about suffragists provided by our LWV. Look for the articles about suffragists written by our members in the paper on a periodic basis.

I encourage people to promote the census. In the last census it is estimated that a million children under 5 years old were not counted. This undercount has consequences for federal funds for special education, after-school programs, school lunch assistance, child health insurance, child care, and housing support. Counting children has become difficult because of some complex living arrangements. Encourage people to count our children in the census.

If you have not noticed, elections are coming up and our voter services committee has been working hard on setting up debates and forums. Thank you for your work. We encourage others to become part of our team.

We need people to help with the Farm Festival. We will be there on August 24, 2020 in Barker Common from 9 to 4. Consider doing an hour shift with a friend. Consider helping with the display of suffragists, the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment celebration and the promotion of the ERA.

### Constitutional Convention Update

Voting took place at a membership meeting of the LWVCC on January 29, 2020. The vote was to determine whether there was member agreement on deleting the first sentence of the League's 1993 Constitutional Convention position, as revised in June 2015. The proposal under consideration was whether to delete the first sentence: "The League of Women Voters of New York State does not support or oppose the holding of a constitutional convention." By consensus, a NO vote was submitted, therefore leaving the position as currently written.

Warm Regards,  
Mary Croxton  
President LWV Chautauqua  
679-1774



# FROM COVERAGE TO CARE:

## A PEOPLE'S REPORT ON HEALTHCARE IN NEW YORK STATE

### INTRODUCTION

Through this report, CNYH is lifting up the lived experiences of New Yorkers in the current profit-driven healthcare system. These data and testimonials reveal the unnecessary distress, sickness, and death that this healthcare system inflicts on patients, families, and communities around the state.



#### METHODS

- CNYH completed 2,409 Healthcare Rights and Access Surveys with residents all over New York state between August 2017 and January 2019



#### FINDINGS

##### INSURED YET UNABLE TO GET CARE

- A striking number of respondents faced cost barriers and inadequate coverage that prevented them from getting medical care. 50% of all privately insured respondents reported skipping or delaying at least one type of care because of cost. Three out of four (72%) of these respondents skipped or delayed multiple types of care.
- These findings reveal a crisis of underinsurance: insurance coverage is no guarantee of timely access to adequate and necessary care.

##### UNINSURED AND INSECURE

- An overwhelming number of survey respondents (73%) reported being uninsured at some point in their lives. Lack of health insurance has been a fact of life for almost everyone.

##### THE MARKETPLACE FAILS TO MEET HEALTHCARE NEEDS

- Respondents who purchased plans through the individual marketplace were more likely than respondents insured through other types of coverage to report problems getting the care they need (63% vs. 42%) and skipping or delaying care due to cost (63% vs. 49%).
- Despite public subsidies and increased regulation, those with marketplace private insurance plans are struggling to afford and access care.

##### THE BURDEN OF HIGH COSTS

- Many respondents reported problems paying bills out of pocket (40%), deductibles (31%), co-pays (31%), and premiums (29%).
- When New Yorkers don't get the right care when they first need it, they can develop more advanced, complex—and often more costly—illnesses, putting unnecessary strain on families, communities, and the health system.
- Nationwide, medical debt is the single leading cause of personal bankruptcy.

##### THE HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM RESTRICTS CHOICE AND FREEDOM

- New Yorkers who rely on insurance through an employer, spouse, or parent report not having the freedom to make significant life choices as they wish, for fear of losing insurance or access to covered providers or services.

# THE NEW YORK HEALTH ACT



**EVERYONE IS COVERED**

**BUSINESS-FRIENDLY**

**NO PREMIUMS  
DEDUCTIBLES  
OR COPAYS**



Much of the **OPPOSITION** to the New York Health Act comes from studies and campaigns sponsored by the Koch Brothers and those set to profit most by keeping the status quo.



**SUPPORTERS** of the bill, on the other hand, include the New York State Nurses Association, who have been actively campaigning. They are joined by more than 40 unions and labor groups in endorsing the bill.



**FINANCIALLY SMART**

**THE NEW YORK HEALTH ACT** would result in a \$45-billion net savings for families, businesses, and tax payers in the first year alone. The biggest savings will come from the reduction of administrative costs. Insurance companies currently spend 22-30% on overhead, while Medicare spends just 2% on overhead.

**SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE**



**ARE SKIPPING NEEDED HEALTH CARE BECAUSE OF HIGH OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS**

**NO LONGER** will profits be made by denying treatment and preventative care to people who are already sick or more prone to be sick. This is where insurance companies make much of their profit.

**PERSONALLY BENEFICIAL**

**98% OF HOUSEHOLDS WOULD PAY LESS**

for health care than they do now. Income spent on health care in NY has risen from 12% (1991) to 16% (2014) to projected 18% (2024).

The largest savings would go to households earning less than \$75,000 a year.



**SMALL BUSINESS WILL BENEFIT MOST**

**REDUCING THE COSTS OF HIRING** additional full-time employees will lower the burden on businesses. This will make New York more competitive, spurring investment in the state and encouraging entrepreneurial growth. An estimated 200K new jobs will be created.

**SINGLE PAYER LEADS TO** additional preventative care which eventually leads to lower future costs of health care.

- NO PREMIUMS
- NO DEDUCTIBLES
- NO COPAYS
- NO AGE RESTRICTIONS
- NO WORRIES ABOUT PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS
- YOU CAN SEE WHATEVER DOCTOR YOU WANT



**PAYROLL TAX WILL FUND SINGLE PAYER**

**THIS WILL BE DONE ON A SLIDING SCALE** with rates set based on ability to pay



**NO MORE PAYING FOR MEDICARE WITH REAL ESTATE TAXES**

This money will be freed up with Single Payer and spent more effectively throughout the communities where it is raised

**HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT**



## *Letters from Elizabeth and Susan B.*

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony left us a picture of their personal struggles in letters. Stanton, wife and mother of 7, had a lawyer husband who was often away promoting abolition. Anthony, unmarried and not a confident writer, traveled a grueling campaign trail. Their words in the following excerpts from their letters reveal tensions between their personal lives, their dependence on each other and their commitment to social reform.

*Stanton, April 2, 1852* "Oh, Susan! Susan! Susan! You must manage to spend a week with me before the Rochester convention, for I am afraid I cannot attend it; I have so much with these boys on my hands. But I will write a letter [in her bid for President of the WCTU which she lost]. How much I do long to be free of housekeeping and children, so as to have some time to read, and think, and write. But it may be well for me to understand all the trials of woman's lot, that I may more eloquently proclaim them when the time comes."

*Stanton, June 20, 1853* "Say not one word to me about another convention. I forbid you to ask me to send one thought or one line to any convention, any paper, or any individual; for I swear by all the saints that whilst I am nursing this baby I will not be tormented with suffering humanity... My ceaseless cares begin to wear upon my spirit. I feel it in my innermost soul, and am resolved to seek some relief. Therefore, I say adieu to the public for a time, for I must give all my moments and my thoughts to my children."

*Stanton, December 1, 1853* "Can you get any acute lawyer...sufficiently interested in our movement to look up just eight laws concerning us - the very worst in all the code? I can generalize and philosophize easily enough of myself; but the details of the particular laws I need, I have not time to look up. You see, while I am about the house, surrounded by my children, washing dishes, baking, sewing, etc., I can think up many points, but I cannot search books, for my hands as well as my brains would be necessary for that work...Men who can, when they wish to write a document, shut themselves up for days with their thoughts and their books, know little of what difficulties a woman must surmount to get off a tolerable production."

*Stanton, January 20, 1854* "My address is not nearly finished, but if I sit up nights, it shall be done in time. I fear, however, that it may not suit the committee, for it does not suit me. But make no arrangements with reference to my coming to Rochester, for I cannot say when I can come, or even if I may come at all. Yesterday one of the boys shot an arrow into my baby's eye. The eye is safe, but oh! my fright when I saw the blood come and the organ swell, and witnessed her suffering! What an escape! Imagine if I had been in Rochester when this happened! Then, to-day, my nurse has gone home with a felon [abscess] her finger. So you can see how I am bound here."

*Stanton, September 10, 1855* "...I passed through a terrible scourging when last at my father's. I cannot tell you how deep the iron entered my soul. I never felt more keenly the degradation of my sex. To think that all in me of which my father would have felt a proper pride had I been a man, is deeply mortifying to him because I am a woman. That thought has stung me to a fierce decision - to speak as soon as I can do myself credit. But the pressure on me just now is too great. Henry [her husband] sides with my friends, who oppose me in all that is dearest to my heart. They are not willing that I should write even on the woman question. But I will both write and speak."

*Anthony, September 29, 1857* "Mrs. Stanton, I have very weak moments, and long to lay my weary head somewhere and nestle my full soul close to that of another in full sympathy. I sometimes fear that I too shall faint by the wayside, and drop out of the ranks of the faithful few...I feel alone...Had three weeks of cold hard labor among the people not yet initiated into the principles of true freedom. I returned home the 19th Sept. Found company there, and company came and came. Our folks were in the midst of a heavy Peach harvest, my mother was very feeble, the Hibernian unskilled, my wardrobe in need of repair, my brain and body in need of rest. For a week I was in such a home whirl. On Friday the 25th I left for the Progressive Friends Meeting. Arrived Saturday A.M... Oh Mrs. Stanton how my soul longs to see you in the great Battle field. When will the time come? You say in two or three years. God and the Angles keep you safe from all hindrances and keep you from all mountain barriers. If you come not to the rescue, who shall?"



- March 16 **Board Meeting** at the home of Mary Croxton 22 Gillis Street, Fredonia
- March 18 **“Telling Your Healthcare Stories”**, EVENING MEETING - 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. – JCC North
- April 2 **“How to Lobby your Representative”**, SUNY Fredonia at 7 p.m. (more information to come)
- April 20 **“Fair Housing”**, Luncheon , Jill Casey, HUD, and Jessica Mallon, Doubletree, Jamestown
- May 5 **Advocacy Training** in Albany by LWWNYS.
- May 20 **LWV Banquet.** Celebration of 100 years: the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment and the people who made it happen.

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

lww@lwwchautauqa.org, 672-4275



The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift of League Membership!!

Make Your Voice Heard! Join Us Today!

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County

- Mary Croxton, President
Nancy Boynton
Gail Crowe
Marcia Johnson
Pat Kirell
Gen Ludemann
Marcia Merrins
Lisa Mertz

Membership Form

Mail to: LWV Chautauqua P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2020 Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25 (Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to get involved with:

Local Issues Voter Service State/National Issues

Local Newsletter

Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: \_\_\_\_\_