



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone County

VOLUME 74, NO. 7

JULY, 2009

FILM: Iron Jawed Angels

Iron Jawed Angels, the story of Alice Paul, (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) and the final work towards securing women's right to vote in August, 1920. These were women who broke away and formed a more radical woman's rights movement for the right to vote. The more conservative woman's movement headed by founder of LWV, Carrie Chapman Catt, was often at odds, but heading in the same direction as the younger, more radical women.

League of Women Voters, Columbia-Boone County, AAUW, and the Tuesday Club (General Federation of Women's Clubs) will present the film to community and members on

Sunday, July 19 at 5:30 -7:30 pm

Ragtag Cinema, 10 Hitt Street

Admission is free and open to the public

Please join us

League Discussion Groups

It's summer and the living is easy. League decided to see if people might be interested in continuing with relaxed informational meetings in the summer. These meeting include topics that members have indicated an interest in learning more about. We just were unable to fit them in our last year's agenda.

Discussion groups give those of you interested, a chance to learn more about the subject, ask questions and voice your opinions.

We promise a cool and central place for these meetings, plus a chance to have a meal, and interesting discussion on *Taxes*, especially the Fair Tax. Cande Iveson, Columbia member and LWVMO Children's issues and Tax chair will be there to talk with you about this issue. Join us on either Wednesday, July 22, 6:30 to 8 (close) at Panera's, 9th St. or Thursday, 12-1:30 PM at the library. (Bring your lunch or drink to Rm B)



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Happy 4th of July!!!

- *Energy Matters Tues., July 7, Library, 1 pm,*
- *Civil Liberties Com., Thurs., July 9, Library, 1:15 pm*
- *Board Mtg., Boone Electric, Mon., July 13 6:30 pm*
- *Iron Jawed Angels, Sun., July 19, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Ragtag*
- *Discussion Group on Fair Tax, Wed., July 22, 6:30-8 pm, Panera, 9th ST.*
- *Discussion Group on Fair Tax, Thurs., July 23, 12-1:30 pm., Library, rm B*



- *Energy Matters ,Tues., Aug. 4, Library, 1 pm,*
- *Board Mtg., Boone Electric, Mon. Aug. 10, 6:30 pm*
- *Civil Liberties Com., Thurs., Aug. 13, Library, 1:15 pm*
- *Discussion Group on Your Individual Advocacy, Aug 26 and Aug 27. TBA*



- *Fall Picnic, Tues., Sept. 8, 11:30-1:00 Bethel Park*
- *Energy Matters Tues., Sept. 8, Library, 1 pm*
- *Board Mtg., Boone Electric, Mon. Sept. 14, 6:30 pm*
- *Civil Liberties Comm., Thurs., Sept. 14, Library, 1:15 pm*

President's Letter Health Care in the United States



As the United States has been doing for at least the last 20 years, we and our representatives in US and Missouri government have all been struggling to come up with the answer to health care accessibility for our citizens. As the debate rages on in congress, many of us watch and wonder how and what the real answer will be.

What we do know from the debate is that costs lots of money to provide care to the ill; perhaps health care is an entitlement for all *or* not; full funding is socialism and private funding is capitalism at their best and those who oppose 'us' are 'scum of the earth', and those who support 'us' are the 'salt of the earth'.

What is best for our national interest and what can we afford? Should all children under 18 have health care provided—non citizens as well? Those over 65 have Medicare, but its costing far too much. Who and how we will pay for all of this, and what will the burden be to the newer generations?

Our **Voter** has had several articles on this subject from LWVUS and in this issue are two more full pages devoted to the issue. Go to the LWVUS web site and see our health positions. Read up and get in on the discussion. Let your senators and reps know your feelings.

ELAINE

Questions about League or our activities? call me at 256-2803

THANKS: Donations at this time for other projects: Big thank yous to Win and Jack Colwill in memory of Eleanor Goodge and to Charlie and Ellen Atkins for their donation toward our endeavors regarding Peace.

SPECIAL THANKS: in Memory of **Irene Jaynes**

The estate of Irene Jaynes recently deceased and longtime, active member of Columbia-Boone County League of Women Voters has contributed \$1,000 to our treasury. Although she hasn't been very active in our organization in recent years, she has continued her membership, including this year.

Our condolences go to Irene's family, along with thanks and appreciation for this very thoughtful gift.

LWVUS Virtual Meeting Success in Columbia

On Saturday, the LWVUS successfully hosted our first major virtual meeting, Council 2009, using cutting-edge technology to interact with Leagues across the country via the Internet. And, it appears the League is again at the forefront of change! Other organizations are already asking us how we did this and what we learned so that they might do something similar in the future.

Our 82 "viewing" delegates came from 44 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands; they were able to introduce their delegations through online photos taken, shared and posted to the meeting! Additionally there were observers from 26 different locales also participating in Council 2009; 140-240 people watched/participated over the Internet. The evaluations received from more than half of the attendees so far are very positive – 91 percent would participate in other such sessions. We all missed the face-to-face aspect of past Councils, but it's good to hear that so many of you found this virtual experience satisfying. In fact, 83 percent of you indicated a curiosity and potential interest in using this kind of software for state or local meetings, trainings or events. You will hear more from us on this in the near future.

Five from Central Missouri enjoyed the council by internet, and telephone. Those attending were Lael Von Holt, Maydell Senn, Jo Sapp, Mary Merritt and Elaine Blodgett

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



(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.

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- 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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Short Items of Interest

Correction: Our local website can be reached at the address given in the last Voter, although it will take an extra step. The quickest way to get directly to our website is <http://lww.columbia.missouri.org> (omitting the “www.”).

VAC: Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Claus is coming to town this summer! Though the temperatures may be soaring, and thoughts of snow are far away, Santa will make his 18th annual local July appearance at VAC's Christmas in July picnic on **July 14 5:30 to 7:00 p.m** at the **Missouri United Methodist Church** . The Christmas in July celebration will provide a picnic meal for hundreds of low-income families, with the help of community donations.

Fall Picnic: Get ready to start off the Fall on September 8 from 11:30 am to 1:30 PM. Join us and find out what will be happening in the next year.

TV Appearances in July: **Cat TV**, show with Tuesday Club, LWV and AAUW about their organizations and history. **Mediacom**, 4 minute interview with Elaine Blodgett on LWV in community. (About 20 community leaders were invited) . **Paul Pepper Show**, League on the show, be sure to watch at 11 AM

Iron Jawed Angels, watch for publicity in the papers about our groups.

SUPPORT OUR LEAGUE: June Fundraiser

Our fundraiser was a success. It was a social hour with beverages and finger foods, followed by a performance of My Fair Lady by the Columbia Entertainment Company. Our gross receipts were \$2,525. This is about the same as last year. Considering the current state of the economy, we are very pleased with the continued generosity of our members, friends, and business donors. The purchase of tickets by so many members is essential to the financial health of our organization.

Thank you to all who helped with the event, both financially and in person. Our underwriters: Margaret Joseph, Joan Mudrick, Elaine Blodgett, Lucille Salerno and Barbara Kopta, other League member donors to the play: Liz Schmidt and Carol Schreiber. Business donors who contributed platters of food to make the event a success: Uprise Bakery at 10 S. Hitt Street, Ingredient at 304 S. Ninth Street, Coley's American Bistro at 15 S. Sixth Street, and Room 38 at 38 N. Eighth Street. Other business donations included heavily discounted wine from Les Bourgeois and a floral centerpiece from Patricia's.

And of course, appreciation goes to all those who helped with planning (Dave Sapp, Elaine Blodgett, Pam Springsteel, Liz Schmidt, Linda Lenau Brown, Linda Kaiser), publicity, ticket sales (Win Colwill, Joni O'Connor, Rachel Brekhus, Linda Lenau Brown, Dick Parker, Holly Burgess), getting underwriters (Joni O'Connor), calling (Win Colwill, Elaine Blodgett, Joni O'Connor, Liz Schmidt, Linda Lenau Brown, Rachel Brekus) picking up food, wine, and floral donations (Joni O'Connor), working at the event (Charlotte King, Dave Sapp, Pam Springsteel, and John and Joni O'Connor and Marcia and George Smith) and cleanup (Charlotte King, John and Joni O'Connor, Lael Von Holt).

Much appreciated were the finger foods and flowers brought by members.

-Barbara Greeley Kopta
Fundraising Chairperson

Membership

New members since our last *Voter* include Janet Hammen (corrected from last issue) and Paula Hodges.

When you look at the membership label on your bulletin, if you have a (9) after your name, you are paid for this year. If there is no number or some other numeral, you are welcome to bring your membership up to date. If you wish to receive a membership list or you feel we have made a mistake in your status, please contact Liz Schmidt at lizschmidt@centurytel.net or call 445-0655.

Dues are payable now for 2009 and are \$50 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$15 for local students. Fill in the information below and mail it, with your check, to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, PO Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

Name _____ Email Address _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone _____

(Note: Tax deductible donations to the Education Fund should be a separate check, payable to LWVEF-MO704) **For more information, contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or Linda Brown at 447-3939.**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia – Boone County MO

P.O. Box 239

Columbia, MO 65205

<http://lwv.columbia.missouri.org>

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democracy leads to civic improvement.*

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Fundraising: Barbara Kopta
Nominating: Carolyn Leuthold & Sarah Wolcott

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CAT TV LWV, AAUW and Tuesday Club interview		See LWV Columbia Pres. On Mediacom's 'Leaders in the Community'	1	2	3	4
5	6 Paul Pepper Show 8:45 am Show at 11 am	7 Energy Matters Com., 1 pm, Library	8	9 Civil Liberties, 1:15 pm, Library	10	11
12	13 Board Mtg., Boone Elec. Coop., 6:30 pm	14	15	16	17	18
19 <u>Iron Jawed Angels,</u> Rag Tag 5:30-7:30PM	20	21	22 Discussion Group— Fair Tax, 6:30-8 pm Panera's, 9th St	23 Discussion Group—Fair Tax, 12- 1:30 pm, Library, Rm B	24	25
26	27	28 CAT3TV taping, Stephens, 5:45 pm	29	30	31	