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Single Payer
and the New York Health Act
(A.4738/S.4840)

September 13, 2017 at 6 p.m.
Aloe Vera Restaurant
Myron Glick, MD, is the chief medical officer of Jericho Road Community Health Center. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Houghton College, is a board-certified family physician and graduate of the SUNY-Buffalo School of Medicine. He completed his residency training at Lancaster General Hospital in the Family Practice Residency Program and was awarded a fellowship at SUNY-Buffalo Department of Family Medicine in Faculty Development and Primary Care Research. Glick also holds a faculty appointment at SUNY-Buffalo in the School of Medicine.

In 1997, Myron and his wife Joyce opened the doors of Jericho Road Family Practice (JRFP) at 184 Barton Street on Buffalo’s West Side. The mission was, and still is, to provide excellent medical care to all who come, regardless of one’s insurance status. Glick is a tireless advocate for the poorest and most vulnerable in Buffalo and in places like Sierra Leone. He remains committed to advocating for the day when all people will have access to quality health care.

Single Payer and the New York Health Act (A.4738/S.4840)
September 13, 2017 at 6 p.m.
Aloe Vera Restaurant

Buffet style: Soup, salad, wraps, light dessert, coffee, tea and lemonade.
Cost: $15:00

RSVP to Mary Croxton mcroxton51@gmail.com or call 679-1774
or message to cell 673-5197
or send a check payable to LWV Chautauqua County to
Mary at 22 Gillis Street Fredonia, NY. 14063

Name(s)_____________________________________________
Phone_______________________email_____________________
From Our President…

"Failure is Impossible." This was the theme of the League of Women Voters (LWV) 57th Biennial Convention in Liverpool, New York this June.

Susan B. Anthony, at age 86 in her last speech, looked over a crowd of women of the suffrage movement in 1906 and stated "with such women consecrating their lives failure is impossible. “ This remark ended her speech but certainly not the movement. I was privileged to be the delegate from the Chautauqua LWV and was certainly inspired and energized by the convention. On Friday we visited Seneca Falls where we visited the homes of Mary Ann McClintock, where the Declaration of Sentiments was written in 1848, and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton home. Unfortunately, we were unable to enter the homes because of the lack of funding for park rangers. I was reminded that Elizabeth Cady Stanton spoke at the Fredon Normal School in April of 1870 after being denied the lecture platform at the Chautauqua Institution. Our next stop was the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls where the first Women’s Rights Convention was held and the Declaration of Sentiments was introduced in July of 1848.

The next day was packed with information sessions, caucuses and plenary sessions. The key to the plenary sessions was know your Robert’s Rules and Parliamentary Procedure. I was particularly interested in the information session on the “Death with Dignity Proposal and Study.” Our league will be holding a ‘hot topic’ meeting on this subject sometime this year. We are planning other topics of interest to the public as well, such as Social Media and Freedom of Speech, Single Payer Health Insurance, School Choice, information on the upcoming Constitutional Convention vote, and several more gatherings on pressing issues. Look at our website, Facebook page, or join and receive our newsletter for all the events in 2017-2018.

I was particularly interested in the networking, especially with the Buffalo-Niagara League. We gathered together and discussed the possibility of a joint program in the future. This was certainly appealing to me. Sally Roesch Wagner spoke at our luncheon. The topic was fascinating and new to me: Sisters In Spirit: The Haudensosaunee (Iroquois) influence on Early American Feminists. Women of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy possessed freedoms far beyond those of their EuroAmerican women sisters. These indigenous women had decisive political power, control of their bodies, control of their own property, custody of the children they bore, the power to initiate divorce, satisfying work, and a society generally free of rape and domestic violence. The thoughts of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Matilda Joslyn Gage were shaped by their involvement with indigenous women neighbors in upstate New York.

Of course one of the most important functions of the LWV is quality, practical, simple voting help, and protecting voters’ rights. While we don’t advocate for any party or candidate, we do support and lobby for issues. We support early voting up to 7 days before an election, electronic poll books, improvement in ballot design, modernizing voter registration, single June primary election, pre-registration of 16-17 year olds, and opposition to voter ID laws in New York State.

Warmly, Mary Croxton, President

Leading the parade for history days in the Village of Fredonia, were women from the League of Women Voters dressed as suffragists. It is the Suffrage Centennial in our State, where 100 years ago in New York State, on Nov. 6, 1917 women won the right to vote, a full three years before the 19th amendment was ratified. New York is often called the birthplace of women’s right to vote following the Seneca Falls convention in 1848 where Elizabeth Cady Stanton read her Declaration of Sentiments, symbolically modeled after the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights...” In 1920 the 19th Amendment was ratified, which amended our very Constitution to give women the right to vote. Its victory accomplished, the National American Woman Suffrage Association ceased to exist, but its organization became the nucleus of the League of Women Voters. Today the League carries on the work of educating voters in a non partisan manner. ‘The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.’
Quick Facts:

- The New York Health Act would be financed with assessments collected by the State based on ability to pay.
  - Payroll assessments would be graduated according to income, and there would be a progressively graduated assessment on non-payroll taxable personal income (e.g., capital gains, dividends and interest).
  - These would fund health care in New York while reducing the burden on the sick, the poor, and the middle class.
- With New York Health, 98% of all New Yorkers will save money compared to a health insurance policy through their employer or the Health Insurance Marketplace.
  - It is projected that it would save New York State 45 billion dollars a year, or an average of $2,200 a year per person.
  - The local share of Medicaid, funded through County real estate taxes, would be eliminated.
- Dental, Vision, Prescriptions, Mental Health, and Preventative Care would be covered under New York Health.
- The total cost would be $45 billion less than what we now spend, because we wouldn’t be paying for huge insurance company administrative costs and profits or for the costly time and paperwork health care providers spend for dealing with insurance companies.

Sample Tweets:

@SENATOR put #SinglePayerHealthCare on the next Health Committee agenda! Vote YES to #NewYorkHealthAct!

@SENATOR #NYS needs #SinglePayerHealthCare! Health care is a basic human right!

#NewYorkHealthAct would lower health care costs and keep New Yorkers healthy. @SENATOR vote YES to the #NewYorkHealthAct

Additional Resources:
- Campaign for NY Health: http://www.nyhcampaign.org/dear_nys_senators_pass_new_york_health?splash=1
- Single Payer NY: http://www.singlepayernewyork.org/
We made it to the finish line! Unfortunately, there were no trophies at the end of this race. The legislature went home with a pile of unfinished business related to mayoral control and taxes. Not much was accomplished this year. Not just for the League but also for other organizations.

Here's what did get done: Raise the Age, including e-cigarettes in the Clean In-Door Air Act, and regulations for Paid Family Leave. Here's what didn't: voting reforms, procurement reforms, Reproductive Health Act, Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act, and Single Payer Health Care.

We are disappointed but also hopeful. This year we made great strides toward achieving our goals. We had significant progress on early voting and the reproductive health care legislation, and we were able to build new coalition partnerships with other organizations. We are already looking ahead to next session and strategizing how to make even more progress. But first, let's reflect on what happened this year.

This session we pushed hard on early voting, and for the first time ever the bill moved from the Senate Elections Committee to the Senate Rules Committee. The League was instrumental in making this happen. Our members lobbied their Senators for weeks leading up to its vote in the Senate Elections Committee. On the day the bill was taken up, nearly 20 of our members filled the committee meeting room to watch the Senators vote. Originally the bill was referred to the Senate Local Government Committee, but after a week of our members urging the committee's chair to move the bill, it was sent to Rules. Although we were disappointed that the bill was never taken up in the Rules Committee, this was still a major win.

In May, the Assembly passed early voting in their house for the second year in a row. They also passed electronic poll books, no-excuse absentee voting, the Voter Friendly Ballot Act, and consolidation of primary elections. In total, they passed 11 voting reforms that would make voting easier and more accessible. We were very happy to have so many reforms pass in their house this year and expect to see even more reforms to pass in the Assembly next session.

In November, eight individuals, including state employees, were indicted related to a bid-rigging scandal that involved $800 million in state contracts. The League partnered with several good government groups, economic think tanks, and the Comptroller's office to put together a list of clean contracting reforms that would prevent future bid rigging scandals from occurring. The reforms included creating a publically available database of deals to track how state funds are spent, implementing safeguards to ensure individuals applying for state contracts cannot bribe decision makers with dark money through campaign donations, and restoring the Comptroller's oversight authority of state contracts. Although we lobbied both houses right up until the final days of session, the bill did not pass.

At the beginning of session we joined Planned Parenthood for their annual lobby day. The event had more than 1,000 attendees who were all ready to fight to pass the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) and the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act (CCCA). The CCCA would mandate that insurers cover all forms of birth control, not just those they choose to cover. It would also allow 12 months of birth control to be dispensed at one time. The law would ensure all women and men have adequate contraception that must be paid for by their insurer. The RHA would codify Roe v. Wade in New York so that if federal laws were to change, New York women would still be guaranteed their right to choose.

The two bills passed in the Assembly early in the session. We worked with Planned Parenthood and NYCLU on moving these bills in the Senate for the remainder of the six months. We met with members of the Senate throughout the session, nearly every day, urging them to bring these bills to the floor for a vote. Unfortunately, the two bills were never taken up and women's reproductive health remains in the balance.

Amazon Smile
The state League has joined a program to help raise funds. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the state League every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com you’ll nd the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a 0.5% of the purchase price to the state League's Education Foundation. To shop at Amazon Smile, simply go to smile.amazon.com instead of just amazon.com and search for the League of Women Voters of NYS as your selected charitable organization.
Constitutional Convention Positions

The public will be voting in November on whether New York State should organize a constitutional convention next year, but according to recent polls, few know anything about the issues involved. LWVCC has prepared a very short summary of the principal arguments pro and con: we will be handing it out at various events in coming months, and it can be viewed on our website and our Facebook page (www.lwvchautauqua.org and https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoterschautauqua/).

Our member Mary Margaret Fogarty has generously volunteered to present an informational session on the convention in Spanish, using the format developed by Mary Croxton and presented by her several times last spring. The event will take place under the auspices of the Rural Ministry at its Friendly Kitchen at 6:15 p.m. on September 25. Voter registration forms will be available, as will a Spanish version of the position summary. We hope this will be only the first of many bridges built to the large community of Puerto Rican citizens in our area.

Student Inside Albany

My name is Alex Majka, and this past May I was asked to attend the Students Inside Albany Conference presented by the League of Women Voters. It was an extremely enjoyable experience that I would recommend anyone to partake in if they were lucky enough. But I’ll get into that later, for now I would like to tell you of my plans for the future.

In the fall I plan to attend Fredonia State for Social Studies Education. My dream is to become a teacher but I do not wish to stay at the high school level. After I receive my masters in education I want to take the next step further and go to graduate school for my doctorate in education. My dream would then be to become a professor at Boston University. I am not entirely sure what my focus would be but I am thinking at the moment that it would be Mythology. And also when I am attending Fredonia I wish to study Film and possibly minor in this. My love of history was only more broadened by seeing all the wonderful history in Albany and the capitol. I had never been there before so it was a new and exciting experience.

The Students Inside Albany Conference was an incredible experience for me from the very beginning. I am the first student to ever go from Dunkirk and am very proud of that fact. I hope that I am the first of many and that future students enjoy the trip as much as I did. The Capitol building in Albany has an amazing history with all the carvings and detail that's gone into it over the many years. Another aspect of the trip that I really enjoyed was the meeting of our local state Assemblyman and Senator. Assemblyman Andy Goodell and Senator Catharine Young were both very nice people and really took the time to talk to me about the political process and what was going on during session. Another part I really enjoyed was being able to sit in on the sessions and see Bills being proposed. Arguments between the senators was also interesting to see.

Perhaps one of the best parts of the trip were the wonderful activities the League had prepared for us and the fantastic food and hotel accommodations we were able to enjoy. My only regret from the trip was that it wasn't longer. I'd like to thank the League of Women Voters for funding this trip and giving me the opportunity, I hope that the League will continue doing this in the future and that more kids from Dunkirk are given the opportunity to go.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JULY 19
7:00pm at JCC North – “Local Wind Power Projects”

AUGUST 27
Lily Dale Celebration of Women’s Suffrage

UPCOMING HOT TOPIC MEETINGS

OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
JANUARY
FEBRUARY
Criteria for Impeachment
Right to Die
School Choice
Freedom of Speech on Social Media

Dunkirk & Fredonia Yoga Center
672-6697
Supporting Your Journey in Health & Wellness
carolyngрядj.com

Fairmount House
ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, GIFTS
12 E. Fairmount Ave. Lakewood
708-8549

Fredonia Baptist
Christian Nursery School
“Investing in Their Future”

DARWIN’S
Health Club, Inc.
43-57 Water Street, Fredonia
679-1591
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!

Membership Form

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

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2018 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: ____________________________________