

The struggle continues...for urgently-needed privatization policy

Since last fall, the HCR Interest Group (HCR-IG) has been laser-focused on the [Vermont Concurrence](#)—and the ongoing corporate abuses that create the need for it. So, it's no surprise that for many of us the experience of the Convention was viewed through a healthcare lens. We also spent a lot of time tabling and canvassing (all those octopi!), meeting many from the 72 Leagues that formally supported the Concurrence, and finding unexpected new supporters, such as Tulsa (OK), Dubuque (IA), and Birmingham (AL).

Our health-care-colored glasses focused first on "**How does it affect health care?**" Consider the four program recommendations from the LWVUS Board in the [Convention Workbook](#).

1. Readopt the Making Democracy Work campaign (including money in politics). Yes! Dark money corrupts health care every bit as much as it corrupts politics. We need similar tools to fight against it in both domains.
2. Retain all LWV positions in [Impact on Issues](#). Yes! But as in Vermont's experience, Leagues often need more clarity about what is written. See the [podium statement](#) from LWVVT president, Sue Racanelli.
3. The Concurrence on the [Decline of Local News and its Impact on Democracy](#). Yes! Local news is a

All Leagues need a position that clearly states local and state Leagues can advocate against privatization of public goods—to protect our communities – yours and mine.
LWVVT president Sue Racanelli

watchdog for health care too, crucially informing the public and encouraging participation in policy decisions, many at the local level.

4. An [LWVUS-wide study on the federal judiciary](#).

Yes! Even well-established healthcare programs, like Medicaid and the ACA, are increasingly subject to court challenges, so they rely on impartial judgments of competing interests.

Furthermore, conventions show the League at its most top-down and its most bottom-up or "grassroots." We saw top-down consideration of by-laws, introduction of new leaders, panels, and speakers. We watched for

bottom-up opportunities—for leadership to listen to and celebrate grassroots views from membership.

Our collective impression is that 2024 was not a year for strong grassroots. We recollect NO program items, by-laws amendments, or concurrences without prior approval of the LWVUS Board being adopted. We hope we will get the tools to confirm or disprove this impression, but so far, our requests for transcripts videos, or minutes have not yielded any.

Long story short, the Vermont Concurrence has not been adopted —YET. We cannot pinpoint the reasons —YET. We go back to the drawing board with Vermont for this urgently-needed position. SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS [HERE](#).



Left: Barbara Pearson (MA) and Jan Darter (CA) at our Wares Market table. **Center:** State presidents Sue Racanelli (VT) and Debbie Chandler (FL) ready to support Betty Keller (VT) at the PRO mic. Tess MacFarland (NY) with a question. **Right:** Judy Esterquest (NY) before heading to the PRO microphone.

NEXT HCR4US MEETING
Sunday, July 28
8:00 p.m. ET

Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Jul28>



TENTATIVE AGENDA:
Intros for New Attendees — Announcements
Convention Reports — State Reports
Newsletter — Break-out Sessions

Convention Highlights

LWV US National Convention program recordings:

June 28 Betty Keller presents "[Vote for Vermont Update to the US Privatization Position](#)" Non-attendees click [here](#).

June 28 LWV Washington presents "[It's not a journalism problem; it's a democracy problem](#)" Non-attendees click [here](#).

June 29 Judy Esterquest presents "[Moving Hearts, Changing Minds: Using Storytelling for Advocacy](#)"

[LWVUS Blog on Convention Highlights](#)
[Convention Photos](#)

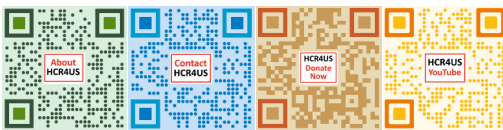
HCR4US thanks to the ground team:

Betty Keller (VT)
Sue Racanelli (VT)
Judy Esterquest (NY)
Linda Mahan (CO)
Barbara Pearson (MA)
Tess MacFarland (NY)
Deb Chandler (FL)

With help from networkers and tablers:

Michelle Famula (CA)
Jon Li (CA)
Wayne Hale (NC)
Stephanie Lowenhaupt (VA)
Jan Darter (CA).

Remote team: Susan Cushman (NY), Candy Birch (FL), Barbara Dungey (CO), Ceil Tilney (DE), Mo Brinck-Lund (WA), Angela Gyurko (WA), Jan Philips (CO), Ruth Harenchar (FL)



Websites

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform>

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

HCR4US Google Drive:

<https://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Minutes-etc>

HCR4US Toolkit:

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>

HCR4US : Dedicated to educating and mobilizing League members to work toward legislation that enacts the goals of our LWVUS health care position

Newsletter Committee: Barbara Pearson, Jon Li, Candy Birch, Ceil Tilney

Workshop: Great advocacy needs great stories

When talking to a legislator or canvassing in your neighborhood, open with a story—that includes a "policy ask." You'll put a human face on the issue and grab the listeners' attention. Stories open the door to conversation and make your data more meaningful to others. Stories connect our lives to the policies (or conversely — the policies to our lives).

At the 2024 LWV Convention, Judy Esterquest and Susan Cushman (NY) walked Leaguers through a process of "showing, not telling" both your emotion and your message as you hone a story you will tell IN A MINUTE or less.

Bottom-line advice: Start with the **drama**. You need a **crisis**, a clear **villain**, and a **moral choice** that lead seamlessly into your **ask**. Speak your story from the heart. Honest advocacy requires truth telling.

Small teams were guided through these exercises:

- #1 Come up with a **6-word "telegram"** of your story. Generate several — and pick the best.
- #2 Then tell (don't write) the **20-second version** to a listener who keeps you focused on the drama and the message. Keep telling it till it sings.

Examples of telegrams from the workshop included:

- My husband sometimes woke in terror (tearing out his IVs and monitors).
- Guns shatter lives, even when they don't kill.
- Baby shoes for sale. Never used.
- My trans-daughter's life is in politicians' hands.

Punchline: The Ask

- No baby should be orphaned by "no insurance." Please join me in advocating for M4A for my granddaughter.
- Saving a loved one's life should not require losing your home. M4A will end medical debt. Please join me to support affordable health care for everyone.

Tell your story and then please share it with us [here](#).

Download the slides, exercises and booklet of examples [here](#).

Watch the [workshop video here](#).



Judy Esterquest teaches us how to move hearts and change minds.

Happy Anniversary, 988!
In the year since rolling out the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in 2022, the line answered nearly 5 million contacts (665,000 texts).

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

Happy Birthday, Medicare!
In 1965, Medicare and Medicaid were established when U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Social Security Act of 1965 into law.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Medicare