

WAKE DEMOCRATIC WOMAN

Published by Democratic Women of Wake County, Raleigh, North Carolina

February 2007



Notes From the Safety Net



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE is the subject of this issue paper. Our writer is a local physician who is experienced in working with and understanding women's lack of access to personal health care. The focus issue in our last newsletter was, "Violence Against Women." For additional documentation, see the complete Women's Agenda for 2006-07, created by The North Carolina Women United. Their internet address is: www.ncwu.org. Some of these issues require legislation for resolution.

— Dr. Barbara Ann Hughes, DWWC Issues Chair

As a physician in a public women's health clinic, I am part of the "safety net" that is said to protect patients who lack adequate health insurance. Let me use one issue, cervical cancer prevention, to illustrate some of the holes in that safety net.

There are three steps to cervical cancer prevention – Pap test screening for pre-cancerous changes, evaluation and treatment of all abnormal Pap tests, and primary prevention of cancer. Failure at any step may allow a cancer to develop that could have been prevented.

Step one – having a Pap test - can be difficult, as many public clinics target their services to women in specific categories, such as those requiring family planning, those over 50, or those who live in a certain county. If one falls into a covered category, there may be a long wait for an appointment.

Women who have a personal doctor may not be screened because they focus on other health problems during their visits, causing Pap tests to fall by the wayside. Language and cultural barriers and a lack of understanding of the importance of Pap tests keep some women from making an appointment.

The second step – getting the needed testing and treatment if the Pap test is abnormal - is costly and may require a visit to a different location that does not offer a sliding scale fee. Women may decline evaluation and treatment because of fear of high medical bills.

The third step – prevention of the Human Papillomavirus infections that underlie cervical cancer –

presents new challenges. A vaccine has just become available for women between the ages of 9 and 26 which can prevent infection from key subtypes of the Human Papillomavirus, thus preventing up to 70% of cervical cancer cases. This vaccine is already available to most insured patients, and is about to become available free of charge to all girls from age 9-18 who lack insurance or have Medicaid. However, women ages 19-26 who are uninsured or covered by Medicaid will have difficulty obtaining the vaccine due to cost. The Patient Assistance Program that provides the vaccine free of charge is not available to public health departments where many uninsured women receive care, and private medical offices may not wish to navigate the process.

A rational health system would make Pap testing, evaluation and treatment of abnormal Pap tests, and vaccination against the causative agent widely available. Instead, our system puts up barriers at each step of the way for women with the misfortune to be uninsured or underinsured. I dream of the day when we create a health system that provides evidence-based, quality health care for all.

The author, Deborah Norton, MD, MPH, is a Family and Preventive Medicine Physician. Dr. Norton told us she wanted to illustrate Notes from the Safety Net with a case, but decided to include information about access to the Human Papillomavirus vaccine instead because this is an emerging issue and this information may be personally helpful to some of our readers and their daughters and granddaughters.

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2007 Meeting Schedules

Regular Meetings	Board Meetings
Feb 22, 2007	Mar 5, 2007
Mar 29, 2007	Apr 2, 2007
May 31, 2007	May 7, 2007

There will be no April luncheon meeting. The J-J Breakfast will be April 28.

Regular meetings are at 11:30 am at the NC State University Club.

Board meetings are at 5:30 pm at Democratic Party Headquarters.

Join Us

Basic Membership	\$20 / year
Sponsor	\$35 / year
Eleanor Roosevelt (ER)	
(1st Year)	\$100
(Renewal)	\$ 50 / year

Call Juanita Bryant at 872-6067 for additional information.

DWWC Celebrates Black History Month

February is Black History Month, where we honor the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to our county, state and nation. The history of North Carolina and America is a diverse one, filled with the hope of an American dream that crosses all racial and ethnic lines.

This past year saw the passing of Coretta Scott King and Rosa Parks, two great civil rights leaders. The renewal of the historic Voting Rights Act marked the continuation of progress toward justice

and equality for all citizens, and is a fitting tribute to their legacy.

“Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul.”

Much work remains to be done. The Democratic

— **Coretta Scott King**

Party is proud of its con-

nection to and history with the African American community. From the civil rights movement to today's struggle for social justice, Democrats are committed to ensuring that African Americans join all Americans in achieving the American dream by continuing to fight for equality and justice and speaking out against discrimination and bigotry year-round.



Betty Ann Knudsen, Joanne Casey and Wanda Schrader enjoy a rare photo opportunity prior to the January DWWC luncheon.

Welcome New Members

Jacqueline Brewer	Basic	Carolyn Hoke	Basic
Kate Deiter-Maradei	Basic	Dorothy May	Basic
Bonnie Downs	Basic	Tina Morris-Anderson	Basic
Rebecca Enzor	ER	Barbara Umstead	Basic
Aida Doss Havel	Basic		

**DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF WAKE COUNTY
2007 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

Precinct (number, name or voting place) _____

- New Member Renewal

APPLICANT MUST BE A REGISTERED DEMOCRAT

Levels of Membership (dues shall be payable on January 1st of each year and include state dues)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eleanor Roosevelt (1st Year) | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eleanor Roosevelt (Renewal) | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$ 35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic | \$ 20.00 |

WHAT COMMITTEE(S) WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE ON?

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards/Recognition | <input type="checkbox"/> Hostess/Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws, Resolutions, Policies | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> JJ Breakfast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Program | |

Make checks payable to: Democratic Women of Wake County

Please mail to: PO Box 12033, Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

Questions? Call Juanita Bryant, 1st VP (Membership Chair) (919) 872-6067

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REPORT FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT – PROGRAMS

At our February luncheon, Dr. Leah Devlin, North Carolina's State Health Director, will speak about the health of the state's health.

In November, Dr. Oliver Williams of North Carolina State analyzed the November elections and gave us the good, the bad, and certainly the interesting news for Democrats.

In January, Bryan Beatty, North Carolina's Secretary of Crime Control, told us about safeguards in place with Homeland Security.

I hope all of you enjoyed the last two luncheon speakers and look forward to our speaker in February.

Have a suggestion for a speaker? Please let me know.

— *Christy Terrell*
Program Chair

WELCOME ABOARD

We gladly welcome June Brotherton to the staff of *Wake Democratic Woman*. She brings technical expertise and newsletter publishing experience to our publication.

— *Nancy Looper and Wanda Schrader*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2007- 2009 OFFICERS

Caroline Farmer, Chair of the DWWC Nominating Committee, has announced the committee's proposed slate of officers for 2007 - 2009:

President	Pat Hawkins
1st VP (membership)	Linda Gunter
2nd VP (arrangements)	Mary Starkey
3rd VP (programs)	Joanne Casey
Treasurer	Mary Colombo
Assistant Treasurer	Elizabeth Hansen
Recording Secretary	Margie Maddox
Asst. Recording Secretary	Rosemarie Downie
Corresponding Secretary	Christy Terrell
Historian	Wanda Schrader

The nominees will be presented at the February 22 luncheon and voted on at the March 29 luncheon.

Democratic Women of Wake County
PO Box 12033
Raleigh, NC 27605

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DWWC Monthly Meeting Reminder

Thursday, February 22, 2007

NC State University Club, Hillsborough Street, Raleigh



11:30 AM Buffet Lunch 12:00 - 1:00 Business Meeting / Program \$13.00 (payable at the door)

For reservations call Martha Farmer at (919) 782-1272 or email info@dwwc.net