

**League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region 55th Annual Meeting
Held May 27th, 2015.
Deyo Hall, New Paltz**

We began our meeting at 5:30 with, as usual, good food and drink.

There were about 30 members present.

Merrill Sunderland and Jolanda Jansen

were congratulated for the completeness and readability of our program which contained a roundup of the year's activities and our future plans.

Honoring Long Term Members:

We honored Rhoda Gellen, and Viola Opdahl. Both of whom have been league members for 55 years. Another plus-55er was Vivian Moscovitz who began her League career in the Woodstock League.

Those present were given long stemmed yellow roses by Shirley Kobran, another plus-55er and our membership chairman. Honoree Anita Kantor could not be present.

Fifteen new members joined this past year. They were noted and welcomed.

This year's Student Inside Albany was Phoebe Clark a junior at Kingston High School. Phoebe was working and could not be present. Ethan Hunt, last year's student is also a junior. He told us about his present endeavor as an intern in Assemblyman Kevin Cahill's office.

League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region Board Recommended Action Items.

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| *Continuation of the Material Management Study | Approved |
| *Continuation of the Shared Services in Dutchess County Study | Approved |
| *Study of proposed changes to Ulster County Charter | Approved |
| *Budget proposal for 2015-16 – Report by Dorothy Winrow, treasurer. | Approved |
| *Election of Board members and nomination of committee members. | Approved |

Budget:

Question from the floor: Jim McGarry questioned whether sending print copies of the Commentator to county officials and legislature is the best use of budget resources and requested a review. Brief discussion followed and it was agreed that the board will look into the matter.

Dorothy Winrow asked the group to consider ways in which our funds can be used for outreach.

New Business:

We expressed our sorrow at the death of Len Cane and condolences to his wife, Lee Cane. He was a distinguished community member, as is Lee. She has been a long time League member, observer corps activist and our parliamentarian.

Constitutional Convention:

New York State League requested that chapters meet and concur (or not) with the state's position on how delegates should be chosen for the proposed 2017 Constitutional Convention. We held a telephone conference call which resulted in concurrence on the New York State League's position.

LWVMHR NOMINATING SLATE FOR 2015-2017

Treasurer: Dorothy Winrow
Vice-president: Anne Needham
Directors:
Cynthia Bell
Jean McGarry
Irene McInnis
Jacki Moriarty
Doug Thompson
Daisy Tyler

Nominating Committee 2015-2016

Lee Ridgeway
Jim McGarry
Dare Thompson

Continuing on Board 2014-16

President: Jolanda Jansen
Secretary: Soyal Smalls

Directors:

Margaret Sellers
Esther Stickley

Not Continuing: Shirley Kobran, Cindy Lanzetta, Lee Ridgeway and Dare Thompson

Submitted by 2014-15 Nominating Committee: Cindy Lanzetta (Chairperson), Jean McGarry, Jim McGarry, Jacki Moriarty, Soyal Smalls

REPORTS

Dare Thompson, outgoing president and soon to be State League president, added a proviso to her farewell, "This is my home league so you've not seen the last of me." She will serve on the nominating committee and be a valued resource for all of us. Thank you, Dare.

Voter Service:

Members have been involved with many activities including: Timekeepers for the Gibson/Eldridge forum; National Registration Day Voter Drive; Naturalization Ceremony which occurs quarterly.

Observer Corps:

The corps has continued its work of monitoring and reporting on the Ulster County Legislature this year. It is recommended that the league closely monitor proposed changes in the County Charter. (A study of the proposed changes was approved by the members at this annual meeting.)

Materials Management:

The group continues to monitor the Solid Waste Management Plans for Dutchess and Ulster Counties. In Ulster County the members have been appointed to a special legislative to look at solid waste disposal.

Shared Services:

The committee tracks the shared services grants given by Dutchess County government to municipalities. Areas of interest include bus transportation, emergency ambulance services and effectiveness of workman's compensation.

Book Group:

Meetings are held either the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of each month depending on members' schedules.

The date and time will be posted in the Commentator. We have read and discussed seven books, many dealing with income inequality.

TOPIC OF THE NIGHT

In 2014 fewer than a third of the eligible New Yorkers voted, despite a high profile governor's race. The speakers, Stuart Shinske, executive editor and director of content and audience development at the Poughkeepsie Journal and Geddy Sveikauskas, founder and publisher of Ulster Publishing, facilitated a discussion on voter awareness of local issues and the changing face of newspapers and other media.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Anne Needham