



Commentator

August 2016

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action. The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.

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2016	Check our online calendar (http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html) for updates.	
<i>Our general meetings are open to all. Family and friends welcome!</i>		
August		
11	4:00-6:00 PM	Board Meeting at Jacki Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Rd, Hurley, NY 12443.
15	8:30-9:00 AM	Kingston Community Radio, WGHQ 920 AM LWV On Air. Go to http://www.mykcr.org to listen on your computer. Call 845-331-9255 to ask a question or make a comment.
16	1:45-3:30 PM	Book Club Meeting Club at Enzo's Pizzeria, Boices Lane, Lake Katrine – <i>Some Luck</i> For more information, contact Jacki Moriarty at 331-3418 or jackim@hvc.rr.com .
September		
8	4:00-6:00 PM	Board Meeting at Jacki Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Rd, Hurley, NY 12443.
13		NY State and Local Primaries
13	5:30 PM	Materials Management (Solid Waste) Study Committee at the Main Course Restaurant (175 Main Street, New Paltz, NY 12561). For more information, contact Kathy OConnor at (845) 757-2247 or oconnor.kraye@gmail.com .
19	8:30-9:00 AM	Kingston Community Radio, WGHQ 920 AM LWV On Air. Go to http://www.mykcr.org to listen on your computer. Call 845-331-9255 to ask a question or make a comment.
20	1:45-3:30 PM	Book Club Meeting Club at Enzo's Pizzeria, Boices Lane, Lake Katrine – <i>Tribes: On Homecoming and Belonging</i> For more information, contact Jacki Moriarty at 331-3418 or jackim@hvc.rr.com .
20	6:30 PM	Voter Registration Training Home of Jean McGarry, 180 South Rd, Ruby
23	12:00 PM	12:00 PM Naturalization Ceremony, Ulster County Court House, 285 Wall St., Kingston. Volunteers should arrive at 10:45.
27		National Voter Registration Day (see Voter Service article)

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Prez Sez

I've been reading "From Black Lives Matter to Black Liberation" by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. It is the background music to my summer, as I watch the Republican convention, followed by the Democratic convention and the difficulty the political pundits have in describing what is happening to the electorate, the body politic.

I hear the voices of the many people who have lost their jobs, and lost the prospect of future jobs due to the ongoing effect of globalization, forces beyond their control, "wading in the water, wading in the water children, wading in the water...."

Soyal Smalls, after attending the LWV national convention in June, went to New Orleans for a 5-day training in "Growing Racial Justice," and brought back the message that for many, especially mothers who have lost their children to police shootings, it is too soon to heal, it is a time to grieve, and to hold hands and cry while grieving.

I move forward through the summer heat and humidity, inspired by the Olympics in Rio, made anxious by the anger in the world at home and abroad, amazed at watching a new generation enter politics and the voting booth. 100 years after women in the US gained the right to vote, we will finally be able to vote for a woman to become President of the United States.

In the words as written and sung by Sam Cooke, "It's been a long time coming, but I know a change is going to come, oh yes it will."

Jolanda Jansen

Monthly Board meeting minutes and more can be found at: <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Committees.html>

VOTER SERVICE

Moderating Guidelines

Guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events by the League are on our website at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.

What Voter Service has done and What We're Doing

National Voter Registration Day

In 2008, 6 million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2016, we want to make sure no one is left out. On September 27, 2016, volunteers, celebrities, and organizations from all over the country will "hit the streets" for National Voter Registration Day. This single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts will create pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities—allowing us to reach tens of thousands of voters who we could not reach otherwise.

Our league is again signed up to participate. Like last year, we have partnered with the New York Alliance for Donation and we will also provide information to register as an organ donor. We will need several volunteers to adequately cover local colleges. Voter registration training was felt to be very useful last year so this will be offered on September 20, 6:30 pm at the home of Jean McGarry, 180 South Road, Ruby.

Upcoming Candidate forums

The Congressional candidates of the 19th District are scheduled to have a debate in the Oneonta/Cooperstown area on October 18. The Ulster County Chamber of Commerce will have a Meet the Candidates breakfast on September 29. Our league is in the process of attempting to set up a local debate between John Faso and Zephyr Teachout this fall. Stay tuned!

Jean McGarry

STUDY AND ADVOCACY

Book Club

The Book Group meets at 1:45 PM- 3:30 PM at Enzo's on Boices Lane across from the old IBM property. The Book Group Schedule for the next few meetings is the 3d Tuesday of the month:

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16 SOME LUCK by Jane Smiley, Good summer reading- a generational story of farming. Anne is lead

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 TRIBE: On Homecoming and Belonging by Sebastian Junger: by Vic is lead.

Get on the email list for changes and updates.

Margaret Sellers and Vic Melville (339-3180); Anne Needham (853-84740); Daisy Tyler (331-5103)

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

Schedules, Audio recordings, agenda and minutes of Legislative Committee meetings and other information can be found at <http://ulstercountyny.gov/legislature>

Become A Member Of Our Observer Corps

Get to know your local government in a personal way! Strengthen local democracy by adding "sunlight" to the legislative process and publishing what you observe in our Commentator! You may observe your town or city board meetings you prefer. *We will guide you, so you do not need to be an expert to get started.* Call Margaret Sellers at 339-3180 with your questions.

UC Legislative Committee on Public Health and Social Services

The Committee was convened on July 12, 2016 by Chairman, Legislator Lopez at 5:47 and adjourned at 6 PM.

Present: Lopez, Belfiglio, Allen

Absent: Heppner, Roberts

Others: Deputy County Executive (DCE) Kenneth Crannell, Nettie Tomshaw, Secretary to the Committee

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Approved.

Resolution #131: regarding setting a public hearing on proposed law No. 3 of 2016 (a local law protecting children from exposure to toxic chemicals) is to be held Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 6:10 PM.

(This resolution was put on hold).

Resolution #332: authorizing the Chairman of the UC Legislature to execute an intermunicipal agreement with Columbia-Greene Community College for a field study assignment at the Department of Mental Health-Department of Mental Health.

It was noted during discussion that the student in question goes to Columbia-Greene Community College, will receive college credit for participation. The resolution requires a vote due to involving a community college outside of Ulster County. The committee passed the resolution.

Resolution #338: Authorizing the Chairman of the UC Legislature to enter into a lease agreement with Family Services, Inc. For office space of Ulster Prevention Council at Trudy Resnick Farber Center, Ellenville-Department of Public Works (Building & Grounds).

During discussion it was noted that this is to continue a lease that has been in place for some time, for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019 at an annual cost of \$1,080 including all utilities. Passed.

Under new business: DCE Crannell mentioned that the committee may wish to visit the department of Mental Health to see the new developments made since that department and the Department of Health

have been joined. Further, he noted that state dollars have also been received so that the Department of Mental Health can offer more services during the day.

Legislator Alan noted that the three legislators from Saugerties: himself, Wawro and Fabiano have received training and been licensed so that they can provide assistance to those who may have opiate related problems.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

UC Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors

The meeting of the UC Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors was called to order on July 19, 2016 by Vice-President, T/Supervisor Michael Warren at 8:37 and adjourned at 9:26.

Present: Denning, Hardenburgh, Rosendale, Ulster, Wawarsing, Plattekill, Hurley, Gardiner, New Paltz, Marbletown

Others: United Health Care Representative Roberta Thoma

Mr. Warren introduced Roberta Thoma, representative of United Health Care. Ms. Thoma suggested to the supervisors that they compare what the towns doing for health insurance offerings with what United Health Care has to offer to retirees. She distributed a comprehensive chart to show the three plans: #1, #3 and #4 presently available in upstate New York from United Health Care.

Some of the points that she noted during her presentation

- with an HMO doctors in the net-work are the ones to be seen;
- with a PPO doctors in net-work one price that the participant pays; if the doctor is out of the network the price will be higher;
- urged the group to look at the differences that the 3 plans provided and what town may presently have;
- emergency care is covered world wide by the plans;
- there are various medicare-advantage plan provisions;
- the 3 policies on the chart include coverage for everything;
- she suggested that plan 3 might go away come the fall;
- glasses are only covered after cataract surgery;
- dental coverage comes in at \$1,000 maximum under #4; also includes 2 cleanings;
- tier 1 & 2 can have 3 months of drugs delivered to the home; and –
- United Health Care Medicare Complete Choice Plan #4 costs \$828 for a year (\$69 per month).

Apparently each of the towns has different plans from different companies to cover the medical expenses of employees presently working as well as retirees. Mr. Warren noted that the MVP plan that most of the towns have used for regular employees has been discontinued.

Treasurer's Report: \$5,890.74.

Minutes for June and for May have not yet been approved due to a lack of a quorum.

Prior to adjournment group had comments re the previous meeting at the UCRRA; problem with cats disappearing: suggestion that there has been an increase in hawks and eagles which may have taken the cats; as well as a suggestion to call the ASPCA to investigate. Additional comments dealt with solar farms: anyone who goes to such may very well have interruptions in service. There appeared to be various questions and issues that the group felt would need to be addressed like zoning, costs, regulation in general before proceeding ahead.

The August meeting has yet to be confirmed.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp