



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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Commentator

December '10 – January '11

CALENDAR		
2011		
JANUARY		
8	2-4 pm	"Post Holidays" party at Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Rd, Kingston
10	1:30 pm	Resource Development Committee at Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Rd, Kingston
11	10:30 am	Observer Corps meeting, Deising's, North Front St, Kingston
11	7:15 - 9:15 pm	Board Meeting at Esther Stickley's, 147 Griffin Dr, Hurley
12	8:00 am-12:30 pm	"Justice and our Justice Courts" at SUNY New Paltz Student Union (SUNY's CRREO, LWV Mid-Hudson, Ulster County (UC) Bar Assn. sponsoring). <i>See Program News below for more details.</i>
13	7:00pm	Informational meeting on Golden Hill at the Recreation Hall in Woodstock, run by Ulster County with League participation. NOTE: Confirm date, time & location with Margaret Sellers, mcsellers@aol.com <i>Check our website calendar for additional informational meetings to be held in February.</i>
FEBRUARY		
1	7:15 - 9:15 pm	Board Meeting at Gloria Plasker's, 106 Park St, Hurley
8	10:30 am	Observer Corps meeting, Deising's, North Front St, Kingston
TBA	TBA	Membership meeting (topic, speakers TBA)
MARCH		
1	TBA	Film "Gerrymandering" at Rosendale Theatre
8	10:30 am	Observer Corps meeting, Deising's, North Front St, Kingston
8	7:15 - 9:15 pm	Board Meeting at Gloria Plasker's, 106 Park St, Hurley

Check our Calendar on-line at
<http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>
 for updated information

Commentator archives, State and National League newsletters are
 at <http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/Newsletters.html>

MEMBERS: Need a ride? Want to car-pool?
 Contact Jean McGarry, 336-6622 or jfmcg@hvc.rr.com

Interested in one of our committees? Just show up at a meeting.
 Our members are always welcome.

Prez Sez...

I hope all of you are having happy, relaxing holidays. Be sure to save a little energy so you can celebrate one last time at our League's "Last Fling" Holiday Party on January 8. If somehow you didn't get an invitation, let us know!

We League members have a lot to celebrate including the passage of the START treaty at the national level and even a few good-government achievements at the state level.

At the local League, it's been very satisfying to be an influential voice in the debate over what to do with the 280-bed Ulster County nursing home (Golden Hill). Public meetings on the issue will be held in the next two months with a vote expected in the Legislature in March and the League will be involved at every step.

We are also one of the few groups playing close attention to what governments at all levels are realizing they must do - share services with other entities, consolidate departments and even governmental units (e.g. villages and towns), and otherwise do more with less.. League members made up almost a third of the audience at a recent panel presentation on this topic and we expect to have a Shared Services Committee working in Dutchess as well as Ulster soon. Let me, Jacki Moriarty, Lee Cane or Ellie Charwat know if you're interested.

And of course we are closely following many other issues, including redistricting and the resource recovery agencies in both Ulster and Dutchess. Do let us know if you can help with monitoring, letter-writing, and other activities. We do get heard!

Finally, we can celebrate that our League has many male volunteers playing very valuable roles. We're proud of our history, but it's not your mother's League anymore, and I'm sure our mothers would be (or are) delighted with the evolution.

Happy new year - and better government - to all. See you at the Last Fling party! And do bring a prospective member (woman or man). It's a great chance to get to know us.

Dare

darethompson@gmail.com, 845-236-3074

**PROGRAM
NEWS****"Justice Courts and Justice in Ulster County:
Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities"**

**Wednesday, January 12, 8:00 (light breakfast) - 12:30
SUNY New Paltz, Student Union Building (SUB) Multi-Purpose Room**

This FREE event, open to all, will give you insights into the important role local courts play in our society (e.g. this is the only court most people ever interact with) and how they might be run more efficiently in these lean times without compromising justice.

All the key players are represented. Speakers include Holley Carnright, District Attorney; Andrew Kossover, Public Defender; Paul Van Blarcum, Ulster County Sheriff; and several town justices including Justice Tim Cox (Town of Olive), head of the magistrates association.

The day will begin with a presentation of "Shared Municipal Services Study Report on Justice Courts" by its author Professor Sydney Cresswell of SUNY Albany's Intergovernmental Studies Program. It is part of a larger study for Ulster County and town governments on the potential for intergovernmental collaboration in our communities.

Our League is co-sponsoring with CRREO at SUNY New Paltz and the Ulster County Bar Association, and our Shared Services study committee and many board members will be there. We'd love to see you there too!

Interested? RSVP as soon as possible (they need a head count for refreshments and printed materials) to Joanne Bernardo at (845) 257-2901 or at bernardj@newpaltz.edu.

NOTE: You may want to take a look at the Shared Municipal Services Study [Report on Justice Courts](#) published for Ulster County by Pattern for Progress. Go to the Ulster County website at www.co.ulster.ny.us/municipalities/

**VOTER
SERVICE****Naturalization Ceremony**

On November 19th, our league once again participated in the Naturalization Ceremony held at the Ulster County Court House. League members welcomed about 40 individuals from across the globe. Thanks to Shirley Kobran, Dare Thompson, Irene McInnis and Jean McGarry for distributing voter information to our new citizens.

**ADVOCACY
COMMITTEE
REPORTS****Ulster County
Shared
Services Study**

DOCUMENTS ONLINE: <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/municipal.html>.

- [Ulster Intergovernmental Summary Report](#)
- [Economic Study](#)
- [Judicial Study](#)
- [Highway Study](#)
- [Action Plan](#)

Additional links of interest include

- The Draft Report can be found on the County Website at www.co.ulster.ny.us/municipalities/FINAL%20DRAFT%20Highway%20DOC%20with%20charts%20and%20maps.pdf
- Frank Cassetta's concise summary is at our website at lwvmidhudson.org/files/Highway_Service_Cooperation_-_Summary.pdf
- the Shared Services Program within the NYS Department of State Division of Local Government Services <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/sharedservices/index.html>

Best Practices page of the NYS Association of Counties. www.nysac.org/County_Corner.php/

**LWV GHHC
Study Group 2****On October 19th the League presented its
Consensus Report
to the Ulster County Legislature.**

- **Summary:** http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Consensus_Summary.pdf
- **Statement:** http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Consensus_Statement.pdf
- **Pros & Cons:** http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Study-Pros_and_Cons_10-19-10.pdf

Below are the 2010 and 2008 materials and resources used by the League in formulating its consensus. We recommend you study them.

Local News Coverage of interest

The Daily Freeman 10/21/10

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2010/10/21/news/doc4cbfc5e8c81e5966393510.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

The Times Herald-Record 10/20/10

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101020/NEWS/10200343>

NOTE: Because of the vast amount of material under consideration, reports and resources on this topic are now only available online at http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html. We'll include a brief statement of the materials available and any links you'll need to access them. For printed copy, please contact one of the league officers noted above.

LWVMHR STUDY GROUP:

1. Golden Hill Health Care Center: A LWVMHR Study
at http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_-_A_LWVMHR_Study.pdf
2. LWVMHR Study Group meeting on July 16, 2010

at http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_-_Study_Group_7-26-10.pdf

3. Interviews about GHHC Marshall Beckman, Deputy County Executive of Ulster County at http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_LWVMHR_Study_-_Beckman_Interview.pdf

ULSTER COUNTY TASK FORCE:

1. Observer Corp: Golden Hill Task Force Committee Meetings 6/1/10-8/3/10

at http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Task_Force_Meetings-6-1-10_to_8-3-10.pdf

2. Long Term Care Financial Considerations: Golden Hill Health Care Center; David Bonk, CMA, CISA

at http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/Golden_Hill_Financial_Considerations_2010.pdf

Further items will be posted online at http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html as they are available.

Additional links of interest:

NYS Department of Health - Nursing Homes in New York State at <http://www.nyhealth.gov/facilities/nursing/>

Resolution No. 115 at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/115-10.pdf> adopted on April 20, 2010 creating the Golden Hill Task Force.

Information on the May 25th summit on county-run nursing homes hosted by Ulster County reported in the Daily Freeman May 13th issue at

<http://www.freemanonline.com/articles/2010/05/13/news/doc4beb815d9e160368704114.txt>

**ULSTER
COUNTY
OBSERVER
CORP**

**Ulster County
Legislature
Meeting**

The Legislature held a special meeting on December 6th primarily for the purpose of adopting a budget for 2011 and providing for the levying of property taxes throughout the county (i.e. establishing tax equalization rates, ratifying the tax rolls, levying unpaid sewer rents and water rents, directing execution of tax warrants, directing charges against various municipalities for Home Relief Costs, adopting a Capital Program and directing transfer of funds and budgetary amendments to close out 2010.)

The only agenda item generating discussion involved 9 proposed amendments to the budget. Of the 1½ hour meeting some 85 minutes were devoted to budget amendments and of those the lion's share were devoted to proposals to increase funding for CASA and Family of Woodstock Supervised Visitation programs (\$10,000 each), Ulster County Library Association (\$8,000) and the Dutchess County Arts Council (\$14,750). Sponsors Donaldson & Gregorius urged adoption and cited budget neutral adjustment based, in part, on recommendations of the Legislature's professional Analysis and Review.

Legislators Sweeney and Belfiglio proposed appropriating an additional \$1,000,000 from the Fund Balance in anticipation of increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentages thereby having the effect of reducing the total budget (and tax levy). All four were defeated.

The other 5 amendments, involving some ½ million dollars, passed essentially without comment and virtually unanimously. (Legislator Donaldson expressed his opposition to Amendment 3 which stripped the Comptroller of \$55,000. Responding to Legislator Robert's observation that Mr. Auerbach had not used the appropriation in 2010, Legislator Donaldson noted that the Comptroller's investigation into the Resource Recovery Agency is in abeyance pending District Attorney and other agencies investigations.)

NOTE: For current, proposed and past budgets, see <http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/budget.html>

The Legislature met in its regular meeting on December 21st.

The bulk of the legislation involved authorization of several contracts for implementation in 2011. Also approved was a "shared services" agreement to integrate elements of the City of Kingston and Ulster County emergency communications systems.

Victor Work was appointed Commissioner of Elections to replace retiring commissioner, Kathy Mihm.

Regarding the Resource Recovery Agency, the legislature appointed former Kingston Alderman Albert Teetsel, former agency board member Catherine Nilsen, and former county Elections Commissioner and former county Democratic Chairman John Parete to replace Steve Noble, Don

DeBrosky, and Katherine Beinkafner. Those who have been following the travails of UCRRA won't be surprised to know that this resolution (<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/307-10.pdf>) provoked substantial debate as well as lengthy public comments (including remarks by Katherine Beinkafner who, when told there was a time limit, advised the chair she intended to speak longer.)

Once again, a concise recapitulation of the remarks eludes me. Readers are encouraged to visit the county website to view their government in action. You'll find the webcast at <http://www.totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=ulster> and the text of the resolutions at http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/legislative_resolutions.html (Scroll down to the December 21st entries.)

Unfortunately, the webcast bookmarks were not accurately created. Ms. Beinkafner's remarks start *near* the "Public Comments" bookmark location. Action on Resolution 307 begins at approximately 29 min 30 sec (29:30). Drag the horizontal scroll bar marker to get to that position.

I should also point out that the text of the resolutions and the links to some of the resolutions have not been fully updated or implemented.

You might want to also visit the Daily Freeman at <http://www.dailyfreeman.com/> and search for articles & comments about the UCRRA.

(here's the search link for 2010 articles <http://www.dailyfreeman.com/shared-content/search/index.php?search=go&l=20&s=recent&r=&d1=12-1-2000&d2=today&q=Ulster+County+Legislature+trash>)

Or try the Times Herald-Record at <http://www.recordonline.com/>.

(here's the search link for 2010 articles - http://search.recordonline.com/?btn-s=Filter;from=1~2F1~2F2010;i=1;max_day=3;max_month=1;max_year=2011;min_day=1;min_month=1;min_year=2010;q=%22Ulster+County%22+%22resource+recovery+agency%22;sort=publishdate-long;source=thr;sp_q_max_day_10=3;sp_q_max_month_10=1;sp_q_max_year_10=2011;sp_q_min_day_10=1;sp_q_min_month_10=1;sp_q_min_year_10=2010;sp_x_10=publishdate;to=1~2F3~2F2011)

Jim McGarry

Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services

Date: December 7, 2010 Start Time: 5:15 p.m. Finish Time: 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Wayne Harris, Chairman, called the meeting to order and the minutes of the Nov. 2, 2010, meeting were approved.

Mr. Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College (SUNY Ulster) presented an update on UCCC. He reviewed the enrollment summary report and emphasized a marketing campaign for spring '11 enrollments. He discussed the 2010-2011 revenue and expenditure report: he highlighted a coming state 2% cut (\$100k) which they can handle, Legislator Donald Gregorius asked what if more funding was lost (UCCC preparing for possible staff and equipment adjustments) and there are ongoing conversations on contracts (currently working without a contract); the UCCC is looking for another extension site or maybe expanding the Business Resource Center (\$50,000 has been allocated to explore the possibilities). Legislator Catherine Terrizzi asked about how well the training for the energy programs is going (well) and Chris Marx will be asked to make a presentation to the committee. Legislator Mike Madsen wants to see material beforehand.

Johnson Controls is considering a large scale solar project, possibly on UCCC property and Mr. Komdat was asked if TSEC would be involved (yes).

Legislator Carl Beliglio spoke of the positives of the nursing program and of the entrance exam.

Legislator Jack Hayes asked if unemployment assistance is available (no, just loans).

The site work on the water acquisition is coming along. UCCC is seeking a rate equivalent (from the NY DEP) to High Falls.

A resolution approving UC's STOP DWI program plan and authorizing an inter-municipal agreement was approved. Legislator Beliglio requested a STOP DWI program presentation.

Chairman Harris announced his request of the Legislative Chairman, Fred Wadnola, that the committee is reconstituted in January 2011. There was a discussion of the reporting entities and some program issues.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 12/21/10

Ulster County Legislature: Governmental

Governmental Services, Environmental & Administrative Environmental Subcommittee

Date: December 20, 2010 Start Time: 5:38 p.m. Finish Time: 6:27 p.m.

Legislator Laura Petit, co-chair, led the meeting.

**Services,
Environmental
&
Administrative
Committee**

Minutes of the November 15, 2010, meeting was approved.

UC Resource Recovery Agency:

Dr. Katherine Beinhafner of the UCRRA board reviewed recent activities:

Mr. Tim Rose, PE, acting executive director, is doing a good job.

A new set of scales are to be installed at the New Paltz transfer station, and bids are being sought. A compactor is being installed in the town of Wawarsing with electrical power, solar power would not be feasible because of the energy cycles.

The UCRRA plans to make more extensive and improved reports the county legislature.

Central Hudson will be conducting free energy audits and LED lighting is to be installed that will save 50% on the lighting electrical cost.

New solid waste management plans are being considered toward contracts with the towns and the City of Kingston in 2012. Union contracts end in 2010 and they are in negotiation, which may continue into 2011.

Salvaging material from Hunter Panel operations is an opportunity for reclaiming and savings.

A resolution in support of continued removal of PCBs from the Hudson River was approved, as amended to refer to a previous resolution, to move to the full committee.

There was an extensive discussion of UCRRA pending appointments to the board (Ms. Beinhafner would like to continue on the board), terms and the process of making the appointments.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 12/21/10

Governmental Services, Environmental & Administrative Committee

Date: December 20, 2010 Start Time: 6:35 p.m. Finish Time: 7:25 p.m.

Kevin Roberts, committee chair, called the meeting to order and the November 15, 2020, meeting minutes were approved.

A resolution appointing Mr. Victor Work to the Commission of Elections was approved. Mr. Work briefly addressed the committee in appreciation. Kathleen Mihm, retiring commissioner, briefly made a few comments in appreciation and asked that deputy commissioner, Jay Mahler, was recognized and thanked.

A resolution approving the execution of various contracts and change orders of \$50,000 or in excess of \$50,000 was approved. Regarding the Meals on Wheels program of The Office for the Aging, there was considerable discussion on the proposed changes of the program. The Michael Hein, County Executive, has ordered no changes in the program thru the first quarter 2011 pending work on the situation.

A resolution confirming appointments to the UC Resource Recovery Agency was approved following an extended discussion of the appointments (one candidate, Catherine Nilsen, addressed the committee), terms, and process. This followed a discussion by Mr. Tim Rose, PE, acting executive director, of activities including a lechate landfill study and discussions with the DEC and town supervisors. Legislator Richard Parete led a discussion on overage tonnage fines and permits (a new permit is in process).

A resolution authorizing the chairman of the county legislature and/or the county executive to execute a contract regarding NYS criminal justice services was approved.

A resolution authorizing amending a 2006-2011 contract between the UC Department of Social Services and Family of Woodstock, Inc. authorized transfer of \$50,000 was approved. This contract involves current and possible future contracts with HUD.

A resolution authorizing the chairman of the county legislature to execute an agreement with the City of Kingston regarding firefighting communications services was approved.

A resolution in support of continued removal of PCBs in the Hudson River was approved, as amended to include a reference to a previous resolution.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 12/21/10

**Budget and
Finance**

The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee was convened by Chairman Richard Gerentine on 11-9-10 at 5:06 and adjourned at 5:19. Members all present. Other attendees: County Chairman Wadnola, Budget Director Art Smith, Legislative Clerk Spinozzi, and student observer from Coleman High School.

The committee dealt with nine resolutions, which concerned a variety of subjects: payment of delinquent property taxes, various contracts in excess of \$50,000, additional state funds for county public transit operations; purchase of the AVL(Automatic Vehicle Locator System for County Highway Vehicles and those of various municipalities involved which amends the 2010-1015 capital programs, purchasing computer equipment dealing with the NYS Office of Homeland

Health and Human Services

Security as well as inter-municipal agreements with various school districts regarding substance abuse programs through mental health.

The resolutions all passed.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was convened by Chairman, Legislator Frey on November 4, 2010 at 6:30 and adjourned at 6:45.

Members present. Legislator Briggs was absent.

There were eight resolutions for the committee to consider. While all the resolutions were passed, there was a question raised as to why a member of the Board of Health was being replaced at this time and what will cause a \$4900 impact on that part of the budget.

The committee will gather information on this point prior to the meeting of the full Legislature.

It was noted during the meeting that the task force on the Golden Hill Health Care Center will report to the County Legislature on November 30 at 6 PM.

An additional note was made that UC had received a NYS grant of \$10,000 to study obesity in the schools.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was convened by Chairman Walter Frey on 12-9-10 at 6:31 and adjourned at 7:10. All members were present.

The first order of business following approval of the November minutes was to handle the three resolutions on the agenda:

No. 1 dealt with a request by the Public Health Director that the Legislative Chairman execute a contract and any amendments with the NYS DOH to enable UC to participate in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2015 with funding of \$267,973 for the first year provided by the state. Noted that if the funding was eliminated the program will be eliminated. Passed

No. 2 and No. 3 dealt with items concerning the Youth Bureau:

No. 2 involved approval of the Bureau's Resource Allocation Plan for 2011 in the amount of \$369,552 (\$65,072 to be administered by non-county municipalities) in order to qualify for reimbursement from NYS Office of Children and Family Services, of which \$304,480 is the reimbursable County portion. The County portion of this figure is \$173,853.

No. 3 authorized the UC Legislative Chairman to execute an inter-municipal agreement with the City of Kingston for the Environmental Education Program for 2011. This program has as an objective to help youth demonstrate ethical behavior and civic values. The funding provides \$17,000, two environmental instructors to train UC children in school and after school in Environmental Science. No county dollars are involved. Passed

All three resolutions submitted by the County Executive on behalf of the Department of Health and the Youth Bureau.

During the discussion period of the meeting Chairman Frey asked that each committee member bring ideas to the next meeting on where the focus of the committee should be in the coming year.

Legislator Ronk suggested that the committee should have as its major consideration the handling of the county nursing home, Golden Hill. Chairman Frey advised that there would be public hearings in Ellenville, Marlboro, Highland, Saugerties, and one other as yet to be named.

The committee engaged in considerable discussion on the subject of the RFPs that were associated with Golden Hill. Chairman Frey advised that the original RFP committee has to meet to score the RFPs. Once the scoring is done, the RFPs must be released to the public; also the Legislature will have access to the RFPs prior to its making its decision on the Center.

The committee members also expressed the view that the next step for the Legislature should be handled through the Health and Human Services Committee.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Board of Health

The UC Board of Health was convened by Chairman, Dr. Stellato on November 8, 2010 at 7:02 and adjourned at 8:00. Next meeting, Monday, December 13, 2010.

Members present. Absent: Dr. McFadden and Mr. Clegg. Other attendees: Dr. Hasbrouck, Mrs. Veytia, Kevin DuMond, Dr. Heller (Medical Examiner), Vincent Martello and Katrina Kouhout.

Initially, minutes of the October meeting were approved; followed by Dr. Stellato requesting that everyone in attendance introduce themselves to Dr. Ivan Godfrey, the newest member of the UC Board of Health. Once the introductions were completed, Dr. Godfrey then told the group some of his background, particularly his most current work.

Dr. Stellato reminded the Board that come January 1, 2011, there would be 2 openings on the Board. The meeting calendar for 2011 was approved. Dr. Stellato pointed out that all meetings are the second Monday of each month at 7 PM except for October which is the first Monday.

Mr. Martello reported on the most recent developments of the Public Health Planning Councils (Seniors, Women, Youth and Healthy Places. All have met, each has developed a primary goal, i.e. Seniors-more flu shots (Dr. Tack suggested that rather than limiting itself to flu shots only, that other immunizations like shingles be considered).

In line with the county's objective of making UC the healthiest place in NYS, Mr. Martello handed out the new logo that will be used for the Healthy Ulster Initiative. He noted that the selection was made from 146 designs submitted.

Following that, Mr. Martello then showed the group the first sample of a video developed by a local firm, Ellenbogen, dealing with childhood obesity. He expects to have a final version prepared soon; it will be available on Time Warner cable.

Dr. Tack made two suggestions: first that KHS has a TV studio and that the commercial could be shown there to the students; second that contact be made with the New Visions Program at Ulster BOCES which had developed a commercial dealing with hand washing and sharing the obesity video with them.

Dr. Hasbrouck updated the group on some of the developments in the local DOH. At next month's meeting UCDSS will provide a representative to discuss how people are able to receive Medicaid transportation.

Dr. Heller, Medical Examiner, noted there had been about 16 calls, of which four were site visits and seven autopsies.

Mrs. Veytia reported the following: the department has tested its process of training staff, distributing the prophylactic items to where they should be, dispersing staff and testing communications. The latter will be done more frequently; the department is working with SUNY, New Paltz at the latter's request to check how the college would do in vaccinating its students, disperse the vaccines, etc. (the department is involving itself in this manner to develop relationships of this nature); the consolidation of its various offices, which, once completed will show a definite savings of about \$70,000-\$75,000 annually, primarily because the department will no longer have the rental costs.

She commented on the "great job" the Buildings and Grounds department and other county departments had done in handling the move to Willow Park. The flu vaccines clinics have been completed; the home bound and some of the senior residences are being completed.

In the course of the discussion during this part of the meeting Dr. Tack mentioned some changes that have occurred in how people are being tested for HIV. He noted that the law regarding testing for HIV is now different that it was prior to September 1, 2010; further it is a federal law that requires that anyone who goes to the ER must be given the opportunity to opt out in writing whether to have the test for HIV or not. As to cost: if one has insurance, the latter would be charge; otherwise the hospital must bear the cost. He referred to this as an "unfunded mandate".

The last item on the agenda was a report from Kevin DuMond. Initially he noted that the Sanitary Code was still a work in progress. The group involved meets weekly with the County Attorney. It is a labor intensive work. Prior to finalization, the Board of Health will see a draft.

Mr. DuMond then reported on the Childhood Primary Prevention Lead Grant. This is part of a program in NYS. The grant for UC is \$267,973 for the period October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2015. While this is a state wide program, not all NYS counties are involved and Ulster is one of six in the Hudson Region.

The primary purpose of the program is to prevent children from becoming sick as a result of exposure to lead, i.e., in paint. The county is working with the City of Kingston Building Program. The latter is examining the buildings in mid-town Kingston for evidence of peeling, paint chips, and other indications showing the need for improving safety and this type of problem.

The DOH has selected the area between Washington Avenue and Broadway to perform the work. According to the figures Mr. DuMond provided there are over 2,000 housing units in this area and 94% of them have lead based paints.

There is a regular process that the environmental division follows: inspection, discussion with the landlord and tenant or owner, identifying children who have high levels of lead before they are sick. If the landlord does not comply with work plan of remediation the DOH will use its new protocols to force such to be complied with.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The UC Board of Health was convened by Chairman, Dr. Stellato, on December 13, 2010 at 6:57 and adjourned at 8:15. Members present: Stellato, Delma, Authenreith, McFadden. Absent: Clegg, Tack. Other attendees: Hasbrouck, Veytia, Houhout, Heller, Representatives of the Boys and Girls Club.

Following approval of the November Board minutes, Dr. Stellato announced that this was Dr. McFadden's last meeting as he has decided not to accept another term on the Board.

The business of the Board was addressed as follows:

Medical Transport: At a previous meeting Dr. Tack had requested that a representative of Medical Assistance be invited to speak to the Board. He was interested in acquiring such information as how a person was able to obtain such service, what the costs were, who paid for such, who was responsible for determining whether a person was entitled to such services.

Sue Warman, Director of Public Health Insurance Programs (Medicaid) from the local DSS, and Wayne Freeman and Russ Maxwell of Medical Answering Services provided a short but information filled talk on the matter.

Medical Answering Services is a private company with a contract with NY State. Mrs. Warman explained that clients who have been determined to be MA eligible can be provided with transportation to get to their medical appointments. MA dollars pay for such transportation. She noted that T. Coons of the NYS DOH oversees the Medicaid transportation for the state. Further, that having the company take over the handling of transportation for the public (previously MA had done this in-house), has been a definite benefit to the public as it is open 7 days per week; and helping the company get paid.

Mrs. Warman noted that if the MA division has concerns about clients needing transportation like public transportation they will call, even the doctor involved to verify the need.

The company manages MA transportation for 9 counties specifically those which are non-emergency types. The work that the company performs is governed by Sec. 505.10 of the NYS DOH law. It is expected that clients would use whatever type of transportation they would normally use, i.e. bus, car, etc. unless their circumstances had changed, i.e., a broken leg or needing to use a wheel chair.

The providers of the transportation can only bill for those services which have actually been used. Appointments need to be made in advance which can be done through the call center system based in Syracuse, open 7 days per week; using the Web site or the call back system all operated by the company; as well as requests by fax.

The client's physician is needed to verify that the former does in fact need the transportation by verifying the need for transportation and the type needed.

On 12-14-2010 the company will be meeting with the Kingston City Bus representatives to discuss whatever problems may exist and work out an equitable agreement. The accompany will be proposing a group rate to handle those who go to Westchester for example as a cost saving method.

The arrangements that the company has with UCRT are excellent. Mr. Maxwell noted that the state is working on developing a more regional type of arrangement, i.e., dividing the state into 5 regions.

One comment made during the discussion was that if the application for use stated unless otherwise stated transportation would be by public transportation there would be a big increase in people taking such

The second item was an update of recent developments in the Health Department by Dr. Hasbrouck. He noted that on 12-20, 21, 22 those individuals who are most vulnerable, ie. homeless, etc. will be provided with flu shots; and the soup kitchens are being checked for such vulnerable people. He also reviewed the budget situation as presented to the county legislature; the mandated work and that which is optional including the costs for each and such reimbursement as may be achieved.

Dr. Heller, the Medical Examiner, noted there had been 20 calls, 8 autopsies of which 5 had required site visits.

Mrs. Veytia noted that the recent consolidation of Health Department services at Willow Park had gone well. The first clinic was held there on December 6. She further advised that the present status of CHHA/LTHHCP involved the county working with Will Care to complete the transition by the end of December. However, this apparently will not occur as there are many steps being required by the state which have not been completed. As a result UC will keep the license until Will Care hears from the state as to whether the former has completed the necessary state required steps thus allowing the state to approve the sale.

Mr. DuMond completed the Board's business with a report on Environmental Health: the state

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had audited the programs during November and the results were good...."all the programs so audited, substantially met the state's requirements". At the end of December, beginning of January, he expects the written report.

The Delaware Aqueduct Leak Action Plan will be handled by NYC, which plans to spend \$1.2 billion to repair the leaks by building a 3 mile by-pass tunnel; to commence in 2013 and be completed in 2019 is the construction period.

As far as the UC Sanitary Code is concerned, he noted it will be given a full review by the end of January, 2011. Most of it has been done, but there is still more to be completed. The Board will eventually have to review and vote on it.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The meeting of the Association of Town Supervisors was convened by President T/Shawangunk Supervisor John Valk at 8:45 on November 16, 2010 and adjourned at 9:38.

First on the agenda was Michael Hein, Ulster County Executive. He introduced the item for comment How to Better Serve the Veterans. To explain how this was to be done, he introduced Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack whose suggestion he noted it was.

The idea is to arrange for every honorably discharged veteran in UC to receive a life time discount card which could be honored at every participating business in UC. The County is seeking support for this from the T/Supervisors and will be speaking at a variety of organizations as well.

To date 150 veterans have joined and over 100 businesses. The cards can be obtained by going to the Veterans Office at 300 Flatbush Avenue or to the UCOB to the County Clerk's office. To assist those veterans who may have difficulty in getting around, the county is working on the technology needed to bring the equipment to produce the cards to where the veterans are located. Mrs. Postupack noted that she is presently the chairman of the Mid-Hudson Clerks group. As such she is working with the group to develop a regional card.

The next topic dealt with concerned the Reapportionment Committee selection process. Mr. Hein advised the supervisors that the first phase was coming to an end. The pool of interested people, over 100, was being checked to ensure that they each met the qualifications laid down in the county charter. Once the vetting has been completed the list of names will be sent by the County Executive to the UC Legislature. The next step commences with the majority and the minority leader of the legislature each selecting two people from the list, etc.

The Reapportionment Committee will be responsible for delineating 23 legislative single member districts as per the Charter.

The final item on the agendas was a presentation by Michael Spector and his associates representing Central Hudson. He is the team leader for CH's Energy Efficiency program.

The program began November 1, 2010. The program offers a free energy audit for any buildings the town wants to upgrade to determine how it will upgrade such. The group responsible for performing the work involved is Alliance Energy Solutions. Per Mr. Spector, this work will not cost the towns anything. The money that funds this project is acquired as follows: when customers of CH pay for their electric bills, a portion of the payment, a systems benefit charge, is placed in The Savings Central Program. The program is a requirement that CH must have and fund to save energy costs.

There are certain types of lights which will cease to be manufactured starting in 2012, ie. T-12. These are utilized by the towns, so the towns have no choice but to move ahead.

As to what might be the down side to the program, Mr. Spector noted that the outside lighting used in parking lots for example was not eligible for consideration. There is also a cap on the size of the building that can be used.

A second major problem is that the fund presently available is valued at \$10 M. Given the type of service that is provided that sum will be depleted rather rapidly (even though it continues to be replenished from monies CH receives as the public pays its bills).

Mr. Spector gave an example of how costs are handled, i.e., If the cost to upgrade is \$10,000 CH will cover \$7,000 (70%) the rest is handled through the Energy Act of 2005. There is an agreement that the T/Supervisor would need to sign that assigns the tax credit to the Lighting designer.

The December meeting is a holiday luncheon at Reservoir Inn on 12-14 at 12 noon. County Executive Michael Hein will be the guest of the Association.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**MEMBERSHIP
NEWS**

Frances Hoffer, one of our "Golden Girls" (50 year LWV members) has unfortunately passed on. Fran was visiting one of her children at the time and she died in her daughter's arms on her 87th birthday, December 4th. Those of us who knew Fran were always buoyed by her modest unassuming manner and her remarkable no-nonsense ability to take over a job that needed doing and execute it well. Aside from her service to the League she was also very active in the greater Kingston community.

She was a charter member of the League, who from our origins was one of our "wise women". She served on our Board many times. She had a quiet but unerring sense of humor and a delightful proficiency in cooking and gardening among many other things. As Jacki Moriarty put it, "Fran had a resiliency gene". When life dealt her lemons you never knew it. She carried on lending her quick wit, determination, and talent.

Fran did so many different things for the League over the years. Perhaps the most outstanding was that she and husband, John edited our Commentator for at least ten years, doing a really notable job. Her intelligence, her work ethic and her quiet strength are a legacy she leaves to her beloved family as well as our local League. We shall miss her dearly.

I/we wish to become members of the LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region through May 31, 2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (day) _____ (eve) _____

Email: _____

I/We enclose: Individual Membership (\$50) _____ Household Membership (\$75) _____

Additional gift to the LWV Education Fund (*tax deductible*;) for our use
(Please send a separate check which MUST be payable to NYSLWV Ed Fund) \$ _____

If you are upgrading to a Household Membership, please
include the name and email address of new members _____

Will receive *Commentator* _____ online &/or will read it on website or _____ Please mail *Commentator*

**(Complete the above form and return it to us with your check at
PO Box 3564, Kingston, New York 12402)**

League of Women Voters
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December '10 - January '11
Commentator