



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 2012 - JANUARY 2013

CALENDAR		
2012		
DECEMBER		
11	Tues. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, packback56@yahoo.com
2013		
JANUARY		
5	Sat. 2-4:30 pm	Post-Holiday "Party On!" Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, 320 Sawkill Road Kingston, NY 12401 845-331-2884, www.uucckingston.org . For members, prospective members, and special guests. RSVP to info@lwvmidhudson.org or 845-340-2003.
8	Tues 7:15	LWV MHR Board Meeting , Call 845-340-2003 for date, time, and location.
15	Tues. 5:00 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, packback56@yahoo.com
16	Wed. 2 pm	Resource Development Committee meeting. Location TBA

Check our Calendar on-line at
<http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>
MEMBERS: Need a ride to a meeting? Want to car-pool?
Contact: Dare Thompson: darethompson@gmail.com
(845) 236-3074



We mourn the recent loss of two talented and generous League members and send our deepest sympathies to their spouses (also LWV members) and their families.

Catherine Compton Chase of Ashokan, NY died on Friday, November 2, 2012, at the Kingston (NY) Hospital. Catherine (or Kenny) was born on November 21, 1921, in Washington, DC. She grew up in Washington, DC, leaving only when she married her husband of 69 years, Sherret (Sherry) Spaulding Chase. She attended the Oyster School, Sidwell Friends School, and The Madeira School, graduating in 1940 before going on to The College of Wooster, where she received her BA in 1944. Sherry had a PhD from Cornell in botanical cytogenetics and because of his research and teaching work, she created homes in twelve locations. The couple produced 5 children who in turn produced 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and Kenny's active volunteer life centered around activities involving young people.

More details are in the Washington Post

at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/WashingtonPost/obituary.aspx?n=CATHERINE-RC-CHASE&pid=161110687#fb>.

Robert C. Opdahl of Hurley, NY died Sunday, November 18, 2012, at the Kingston Hospital. He was born April 3, 1925 at Bethpage, NY. He graduated from Farmingdale High School in 1943 and entered into active military duty serving with the 264th Medical Battalion at various locations in the Pacific Theater of Operation. From 1950 to 1955 he served as a staff member of the Shaker Village Work Camp on Shaker sites in New Lebanon, NY. He married Viola W. Opdah in 1956. And also that year, after having earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Hofstra University, he secured a position at IBM, Kingston. He worked there until he retired in 1991 serving most often in an advisory engineer communications system capacity. He was active in many arts activities but perhaps his most loved and memorable ongoing project is the wood turning shop he maintained on his property.

More details are in the Daily Freeman

at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyfreeman/obituary.aspx?n=robert-c-opdahl&pid=161179459#fb>

We belatedly also note and mourn the loss of another League member who was here in the Mid-Hudson too briefly but charmed and impressed us all.

Joy Mason Pappas was born in Houston, Texas, on June 21, 1927 and passed away in Kingston, NY, June 11, 2012, after a brief illness. Joy moved to Austin, Texas, in 1960 where she pursued her interest in Public Health. She received her RN from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Houston in 1947, a BSN from The University of Texas School of Nursing in Galveston in 1962, and an MS in Nursing from Texas Woman's University (Texas Medical Center Campus - Houston) in 1973. She retired from her position as Director of the Division of Public Health Nursing at the Texas Department of Health in 1984. She moved to Kingston to be closer to grandchildren.

More details are in the Austin, TX Statesman at

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?pid=158503252>

Prez Sez...

So much has happened since our last newsletter hit your IN box!

We were delighted that the **revisions to the Ulster County Charter** passed on November 6, thanks to all the voters who managed to find the issue on the back of the ballot and had prepared ahead of time on the issue.

As this issue is being prepared, the LDC charged with selling the Ulster County nursing home, **Golden Hill**, announced that the winning bidders for the property are Dr. Anthony Bacchi, Martin Farbenblum, and Edward Farbenblum. Dr. Bacchi grew up in Ulster County and after a successful career in medicine, nursing homes, and other business ventures he recently returned to Ulster where he built the Lazy Swan Village in Saugerties. Dr. Bacchi and his partners are looking to acquire Kingston Hospital for assisted living and other services and intend to introduce a variety of significant health care improvements to the area.

I chair the LDC and commend the other six members of the board for their diligence and hard work. We were thrilled to announce this remarkably good news to the community and I was especially glad to go immediately to Golden Hill with Legislator Jeanette Provenzano and Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell to explain the deal to some key residents and staff members. The League took the position over two years ago that the County should sell Golden Hill, but this outcome exceeded our highest expectations.

Meanwhile another "hot" League issue, **solid waste management**, is moving forward quickly. A vote will be taken this month on whether Ulster County should institute "**flow control**" and we are watching that issue closely. (See a separate article on this.)

We hope that LWV work will quiet down for just a bit so we can enjoy the holidays, but we hope you can be with us on **January 5** for our **Post-Holiday Party**. Invitations will go out very soon.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

**Great Lakes
Ecosystem
Concurrence****DOES THE MID-HUDSON LWV CONCUR with the LWV of Michigan's Position on the Great Lakes Ecosystem?**

The LWV of New York State is asking us to concur (or not) with the position held by the LWV of Michigan. Other state leagues bordering the Great Lakes are asking the same of their member leagues. Here are the key paragraphs from the letter sent by our state president, Sally Robinson:

"The eight states that share Great Lakes' shorelines border the largest body of freshwater in the world. Forty million people in the U.S. and Canada depend on this source for their drinking water, as well as their recreational and commercial potential. Significant environmental challenges, such as toxic sediments, invasive species, nutrient loading, and shoreline development, to mention a few, threaten the health and livelihood of those dependent on the lakes. Climate change is another factor that exacerbates stress factors on the lakes.

"If (and when) all the states in the Great Lakes Basin were to adopt this *Ecosystem Position*, there will be a larger number of informed league members who in their turn can act as a more focused and unified voice in promoting the cause of Great Lakes restoration and conservation efforts."

While the Mid-Hudson Region is not on the shores of the Great Lakes, I think we can all identify their importance. Don't hesitate to let us know what you think. At its January 8th meeting, the board will decide if our league concurs with this position based on member input and their own judgment. Most board members have already indicated that they are inclined to concur with this. **If you would like to attend the discussion or send your comments in advance, please do so.** For further details, contact our president, Dare Thompson at 236-3074 or darethompson@gmail.com.

The position with which we are asked to concur is as follows:

Adopted 1974, 1981; title amended 1985, Great Lakes Diversions and Consumptive Uses Position and Great Lakes System Position combined 1988; updated 2005

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Ecosystem.

We support the attainment and maintenance of high water quality standards throughout the Great Lakes Basin, with emphasis on water pollution prevention. Water conservation should be a high priority of all governments in the Basin.

I. Protective Measures

To achieve protection and improvement of this valuable, international resource, the League of Women Voters of Michigan supports efforts to:

- A. Limit uses of "fragile," historical, cultural and scenic shoreline areas.
- B. Preserve wild and pristine areas within the watershed, with no new development in these special habitats without adherence to strict criteria as prescribed by federal, state, or local governments.
- C. Provide for appropriate recreational opportunities in and public access to sensitive areas without destruction or harm to the ecosystem.
- D. Protect the quality of the air and waters of the ecosystem by strict adherence to agricultural, industrial, residential, environmental, and commercial zoning regulations that prohibit the introduction of toxic or polluting discharges or detrimental land use techniques within the Basin.
- E. Protect the remaining dune formations. Enforce strict regulations of sand dune mining or development on the dunes.
- F. Strengthen upstream land management to eliminate sources of siltation and pollution.
- G. Control the invasion and spread of non-native aquatic and terrestrial nuisance species.

II. Threats to the Ecosystem

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes the following activities as they can lead to the degradation of the special natural resources of the Great Lakes Ecosystem:

- A. Inefficient or excessive water uses. Proposals for new or increased withdrawals within the Basin, e.g. for agricultural or municipal uses, should be carefully evaluated before being permitted. Withdrawals should be regularly monitored for potential or actual damage to the ecosystem.
- B. Destruction of marshes and other wetlands throughout the watershed. Mitigation should be accepted only as a last resort. Mitigation proposals should be rigorously evaluated and projects should be strictly monitored to assure no net loss to the ecosystem.
- C. New or increased diversions or transfers by any means of Great Lakes waters and adjacent groundwaters to a place outside the Basin. Projects already in place should be carefully monitored and restricted if there is evidence of damage to the ecosystem.
- D. Dredging and filling of river inlets, harbors, lakes, or wetlands except for tightly-controlled, non-degrading and non-repetitive activities.
- E. Discharge to air or water of toxic pollutants and other material from industrial, agricultural, residential or commercial operations that may damage the ecosystem in violation of laws and ordinances.

III. Public Participation

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports informed and responsible action on behalf of the preservation of the Great Lakes Ecosystem. Relevant information should be readily available to the public. Opportunities for public input should be timely, accessible, convenient, and well advertised.

IV. Role of Government

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports:

- A. Coordination of functions among various governmental agencies charged with protecting the Great Lakes and elimination of unnecessary overlap.
- B. Use of area-wide coordinated management plans and techniques in the solving of Great Lakes Ecosystem problems.
- C. Participation by all affected governments in the Basin in review and decision-making on Great Lakes agreements and projects, facilitated in open meetings and hearings.
- D. Strengthening of existing mechanisms for intergovernmental discussions and decision-making.
- E. Separation of responsibility for submitting recommendations for governmental projects from issuing permits for such projects.
- F. Monitoring and enforcement of treaties, ordinances, laws and master plans.

V. Research Priorities

The League of Women Voters of Michigan believes that research on Great Lakes issues should focus on:

- A. Effective, non-toxic control and removal of invasive aquatic and terrestrial species.
- B. Restoration of health to the overall resource.
- C. Survival of native aquatic and terrestrial species and their nutrient sources.
- D. Continual testing of Great Lakes water quality for impact from the following: pesticides and fertilizers, resistant bacteria, persistent pharmaceuticals and other chemicals.
- E. Evaluation of water accountability systems, groundwater monitoring, and water use planning and conservation efforts throughout the Basin.

VOTER SERVICE**Naturalization Ceremony**

Irene McInnis and Jean and Jim McGarry represented the league at the Naturalization ceremony held at the Ulster County Courthouse on November 16. Nineteen individuals received voter registration information as we offered congratulations on becoming an American citizen.

KUDOS

...to the POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL for Outstanding Election Coverage

While we appreciate all that our members of the local media do to help voters understand the choices before them, we note particularly the efforts by the Poughkeepsie Journal, which covered all state and federal races in both Dutchess and Ulster Counties.

We particularly appreciated the fact that they opened up their editorial board interviews by soliciting questions from the public in advance, LIVE streaming the interviews online, and then archiving the interviews for continued viewing throughout the election season.

Many thanks to this Gannett paper for doing a remarkable job in a time of shrinking resources, particularly for daily newspapers. We salute you!

Moderating Guidelines

Guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events are our website. Check it out and please refer anyone who is interested in sponsoring a debate to our website. The guidelines are at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.

ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS**Technology and Local Government Study**

Please let Gina know if you share the concern she describes below and would like to work with her on this. She's at rkarklein@gmail.com or 845-463-2557.

It has come to my attention that some local government entities may be encountering difficulties in communication with citizens. The November 2012 LWV Commentator presented an article about the Dutchess County shared services committee presentation to the Dutchess

**Proposal from
LWV Member
Gina Klein**

County Supervisors and Mayors Association. As part of that project, we tried to use electronic communication, via email, to follow-up that presentation but our efforts were challenged by difficulties obtaining email addresses. In addition it came to our attention that some elected officials rarely check their email inboxes.

Members of the committee tried to obtain a comprehensive database of elected officials in Dutchess County that included email addresses. Such a database would enable sending a single communication to multiple email addresses. We were not able to locate such a database and learned that even the Dutchess County Executive's office does not have such data readily available. Diane Jablonski and I tried to compile a spreadsheet with names, positions and email addresses from each town/city/village's website and we found that it was frequently difficult to find/obtain the data. For example, some town websites have a "contact" window to send an email to a specific party, but the email address could not be captured for transfer to a spreadsheet.

It appears that local governments may be challenged by current communication technologies. A short-term study by our Mid-Hudson LWV of the issues confronting local governments regarding technological issues could identify some of the issues and possible resolutions that would enhance communications at virtually no cost. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in such a study.

**Dutchess
County
Shared
Services
Study
Committee**

Ellie Charwat and her committee have prepared the following FAQ sheets you may find interesting

Jail Fact Sheet Version 4-1

Highway Departments in Ulster County

Fire Districts in Dutchess County

Purchasing in Dutchess County Municipalities

Justice Courts in Ulster County

Bus Transportation

You can find links to these materials at http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html#s02

**Ulster &
Dutchess
Counties
Solid Waste**

On November 13th we had a brief meeting in Highland, before going to the Ulster County Legislature Meeting. The date for a **public hearing on the Ulster County Flow Control Law** was set for Tuesday, **November 27th**, 6:30pm at the Legislative Building. There was **also an important public meeting on the Regional Sustainability Plan (initiated by the Governor)**, which includes Material Management in the Hudson Valley set for the same day. We had representation at both meetings.

At the 11/27 Ulster County meeting, Dare Thompson made the following statement:

"The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region has followed the issue of solid waste management in Ulster County for over two decades, and our members have been present in numbers at the meetings leading up to this hearing. We have given input to the Ulster County Legislature's Environment, Energy and Technology Committee and the Special Committee on the Future of the UCRRA in their exploration of many options to pay the net service fee and pay for the costs of managing waste in the near term, none of which are perfect.

The need for a change to the status quo of paying the net service fee out of the general funds is due to both projection of a larger net service fee and the requirement to keep tax increases below 2 percent. This latter issue also has made it more difficult to institute options such as a user fee.

Flow control depends upon the generation of waste to produce revenue via tipping fees. This is hardly ideal, since we all need to REDUCE waste both for environmental and economic reasons. But flow control appears to be the best solution short-term. It does encourage some waste reduction by imposing higher costs on those who generate and dispose of more waste and it will reduce the burden on the general taxpayer and those who make less waste. It also creates a fairer playing field for all haulers, since UCRRA will no longer be forced to charge large haulers less in order to keep them from leaving the

system.

In the long run, a funding mechanism that allows for an integrated solid waste management system that adequately funds capital and operating expenses for waste reduction, recycling, organics composting is needed. Hauling Ulster County's waste over 200 miles upstate is unsustainable. A regionalized, multi-county waste management system may be needed in the near future to deal with the evolving technologies and business practices in order to achieve an efficient and effective long term solution."

The public hearing was well attended by legislators and the public. Nine people spoke for and against the measure. We were impressed with the thoughtfulness of the observations and the civil discussion. The Legislature should be voting on the law soon.

At the 11/27 **public hearing on the Draft Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan** held in Kaplan Hall on the Orange County Community College campus in Newburgh at the same time as the public hearing on flow control in Kingston, the consortium led by the County of Orange and the Town of Greenburgh, talked about the Plan as a whole including the chapter on Materials Management.

The plan identified the lack of an active public landfill in the 7-county region consisting of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster and Sullivan counties as the source of the greatest regional expense in Transportation and Disposal costs and the greatest contribution of this sector to greenhouse gas emissions since all of the counties end up driving waste materials to the Syracuse area.

The plan identifies three main goals for the region: 1) reducing the volume of solid waste by using incentive policies and programs on a regional basis with the counties working together to share resources and expertise; 2) maximizing the useful lifespan of materials with a heavy focus on increasing composting and other organic recycling methods such as converting organic waste to methane or ethanol or some other reusable fuel; 3) focusing on projects that create local disposal options such as construction of one or more landfills.

Unlike at the first public hearing when a small group of very disruptive people objected to the very concept of regionalization, the participants who commented on the plan this time were all deeply engaged and interested in making it the best plan possible and one that truly addressed the wide diversity of the region.

Our group will also attend the November 29th meeting of the **Ulster County Environmental, Energy, and Technology Committee**, which will continue discussion on Solid Waste Management.

We also note that Dutchess County LWV member, Ken Kraft, was recently quoted in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* with his thoughts on the **City of Poughkeepsie** moving forward with a "Pay as You Throw" approach to waste collection. We are all hopeful for the new experiment, as we believe it will help increase recycling and waste reduction. Stay tuned for the beginning of 2013...

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Committee will be **December 11th, 5:30 pm, at the Gateway Diner in Highland**. New members are always welcome!

Cindy Lanzetta, Chairman

**MidHudson
Regional
Sustainability
Plan II**

Take a look at the Sustainability Plan Informational Pamphlet posted on the Orange County Department of Planning website at <http://www.orangecountygov.com/content/124/1362/10101.aspx>

And for more information visit **Engage MidHudson** at <http://www.engagemidhudson.com/>, an online platform where citizens and government of the Mid-Hudson Region share knowledge and brainstorm project ideas and initiatives that will help build a more sustainable region

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP**Ulster County
Legislature:
Laws and
Rules,
Governmental
Services
Committee****Date: Nov. 7, 2012 Start Time: 8:35 p.m. Finish Time: 8:46 p.m.**

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting order. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed Resolution No. 275 regarding amending the rules of order of the Ulster County Legislature to change legislative meetings on future September 11 dates: Legislator David Donaldson said there is a need to discuss. Resolution tabled. Legislator Craig Lopez is to be invited to the next meeting.

Proposed Resolution No. 276 on setting a public hearing on proposed local law No. 12 of 2012 re amending Ulster County Solid Waste Management Law: Counsel to Legislature Langdon Chapman offered clarifying language: Adopted, as amended.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 290 authorizing the Ulster County Executive to execute an application to receive an allocation funds from the New York State Office for the Aging - Office for the Aging: Adopted.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 291 confirming an appointment of member to the Ulster County Board of Ethics: No for lateness, not considered.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 11-30-12

**Environmental
Energy &
Technology
Committee****Date: Nov. 1, 2012 Start Time: 5:35 p.m. Finish Time: 6:25 p.m.**

Tracey Bartles, Deputy Chair, called the meeting to order and took attendance. The Sept . 6, 2012, meetings minutes were not approved as Legislator Ken Wishnick was not able to read them.

Proposed Resolution No. 250 requiring the posting of audio recordings of legislative committee meetings on the county's official website within 24 hours of adjournment of the committee meeting: After discussion, the committee agreed to change the time period to 72 hours and some other procedures were discussed.

Proposed Resolution No. 276 setting a public hearing on proposed local law No. 12 of 2012 amending Ulster County Solid Waste Management Law: Approved of public hearing following extensive consideration by the committee of the issues, legalities, and procedures regarding the proposed law.

Proposed Resolution No. 278 requesting the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate introduce legislation amending the New York Public Authorities law regarding recycling material and Proposed Resolution No. 279 requesting the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate introduce legislation amending the New York Public Authorities law to allow elected officials to serve on the Board of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency: These resolutions were postponed following an extensive discussion on the issues and legalities

Three Budget Abstracts were discussed including an item of the Sheriff's Office regarding a question of Legislator Ken Wishnick.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 11/30/12

**Legislative
Programs,
Education &
Community
Services****Date: Nov. 5, 2012 Start Time: 5:00 p.m. Finish Time: 6:10 p.m.**

Chairman Wayne Harris called the meeting to order, attendance taken and the meeting minutes of Oct. 2, 2012, were adopted.

This meeting focused legislative programs funding in the county budget. Representatives of funded organizations discussed their organizations and presented their funding requests. The committee subsequently discussed, without the representatives present, the funding requests and adopted increases for all, expect for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, in

proposed recommendations for the county budget. Appeals are due by Nov. 9, 2012.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 274 for appropriation for the Ulster County Libraries Program of \$67,500 was adopted following a discussion with Margie Menard, Treasurer Ulster County Library Association of the benefits and opportunities of the various services.

Mr. Robert Lamoree, the new Executive Director of Ulster County Community Action discussed his personal work history and the goals (and funding needs) he has for UC Community Action. A major project is to renovate and repurpose their commercial kitchen.

Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Committee College, discussed their current projects. No resolutions.

Lee Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, discussed their programs and funding needs. The move to their new facility has been successful, especially the new conference room.

Eve Madalengoitia, Director, Dutchess County Arts Council, reviewed the Ulster County Awards application process and the capacity building objective. She agreed to offer a review of the objectives and guidelines with the committee.

Richard Heyl De Ortiz, Executive Director, Court Appointed Special Advocates, presented a CASA Report addressed to the committee that described the CASA background, current status and developments, examples of success, and budget. He discussed current funding needs of CASA.

Date: Nov. 27, 2012

Start Time: 5:09 p.m.

Finish Time: 5:22 p.m.

Deputy Chairman David Donaldson called the meeting to order, attendance taken and the meeting minutes of Nov. 27, 2012 were approved.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 309 confirming appointment of member to the Ulster County Community College Board of Trustees: Anna Brett replacing Bill LeDoux.

Don Katt, President, Ulster County Community College, discussed the early college program and education plan, and the State University's approval of the sale of the "President's House" is expected on Dec. 5.

A representative of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and Jose Colon, Agriculture Program Leader (Farm Bureau) were present.

Jack Hayes, representing the interests of veterans discussed a veterans event of Dec. 5 – outreach on substance use related to traffic violations.

Earl Partini, representing the Catskill Mountain Railway discussed an outreach program for 4th graders and preschooler program about railway safety. They have 150 volunteers. He is expected to be invited to a future committee meeting for further discussion.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 11/30/12

Date: Oct. 31, 2012

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Finish Time: 6:33 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order and took attendance.

The Oct. 3, 2012, meeting minutes were approved, as amended.

The Proposed Draft Resolution No. 272 regarding urging the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to expedite and complete the process necessary to advance the project a Williams Lake was amended to accommodate proposed revisions by Legislator Ken Wishnick. These changes would focus on an overview of the process and keep the DEC issues out of the resolution. Adopted, as amended.

**Economic
Development
and Tourism
Committee**

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 286 regarding authorizing the chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation – to accept the New York State share for mass transportation projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2012 – Department of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit): Robert DiBella, Director UCAT, discussed the resolution and the 10% match on grant and the amounts have been budgeted. Adopted.

New Business discussed was:

Peter Loughran, Deputy Chairman, suggested Sandy Mathis, Deputy Clerk of Finance, be invited to discuss his duties on the legislative staff with the committee. Agreed.

Kathy Nolan, Chair of the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee discussed Public Budget Hearing to be held asked for support of the Unified Trails Network. Mr. Maloney asked what are the trails and are there maps. There is a concept and vision, budgeted, to sell county owned properties. The rails to Highmount are to be removed.

Legislator Kevin Roberts asked about a transit study committee and he is concerned about empty buses on various routes. Mr. DiBella discussed briefly the plans and he offered to bring the whole plan to the committee – due Feb. – Mar. '13 with public comment., designed to be revenue neutral., and include a capital plan that will include more efficient and effective smaller buses.

There followed an extended discussion, lead by Mr. Loughran, about the state program of transporting DSS clients and the net cost to the county. Several legislators recommended a joint meeting of county and state representatives to addresses the issues. Agreed.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 11/30/12

November 29, 2012 Meeting was called to order at 5:47, with all members attending. The minutes of the September, October, and November meetings were approved.

Richard Gerentine spoke to the committee, saying that he had concerns about flow control and suggested that there should be franchising by districts in the county, with bids by each district. Because there would be one collector by district, it would be environmentally better (less duplication of routes).

Discussion followed as to whether franchising should be done by the county, which would make the county responsible for waste disposal, or by municipality as is often done. Since only the City and Town of Kingston collect trash now, how interested would the other municipalities be?

A number of questions need to be explored, and there is money in the proposed budget for a study. It is recommended that a study be started right away. Although this might delay the start of flow control for a few months, it would not delay the decision on flow control.

The manager of the Northeast Region of Environmental Industry Associations advised against flow control because of legal ramifications. This needs to be part of the study. It was decided to refer the study to Rules and Laws and Ways and Means.

Resolution 301, ratifying the execution of an inter-municipal agreement to allow Ulster County to participate in a BOCES bid for internet services and to purchase internet services through BOCES was approved with an amendment.

Resolution 278, requesting the amendment of NY Public Authorities Law to include recyclable material was passed.

Resolution 279, requesting the amendment of NY Public Authorities Law to allow elected officials to serve on the Board of UCRRA was passed, and a debate on the Board structure was planned for the next committee meeting.

Abstracts of 2 budget contracts were reviewed.

For the Observer Corps, Lee Ridgway

Environmental Energy and Technology Committee

**Golden Hill
Local
Development
Corporation
(GHLDC)**

The Golden Hill LDC was convened by Chairman Dare Thompson on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 11:06 AM.

Present: Thompson, Beckman, Hanson, Provencano, Bernholz

Absent: Dr. Iannuzzi

Other attendees: DCE Crannell, Justin Miller, general counsel to the LDC from Harris Beach, First Asst. County Attorney Johnson, Amy Border, assigned secretary to the LDC, TV/press

Following the approval of minutes of the last meeting, Mr. Hanson introduced 3 resolutions dealing with bills incurred by the GHLDC including \$13,700 for legal fees from Harris Beach and an unspecified amount for secretarial services rendered by the secretary, Amy Borden.

While the resolutions to pay for the services which have been rendered to the GHLDC, there were some concerns expressed in the process. Apparently, it was felt by Mr. Bernholz that the material to be voted on regarding the expenses, as well as the minutes, had not arrived earlier enough to provide enough time for him to review the material and then vote on it. He abstained.

Additional concerns that were expressed involved the timeliness with which the members were receiving information dealing with the negotiations so that they could feel more a part of the process...even if only a sentence or two advising at what point the talks were so that board members would be able to feel they were included. One response to this was that there was no intent to not share information with all the board members.

At 11:12 a motion was made to move to executive session and approved.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Golden Hill LDC meeting was convened by Chairman Thompson on November 20, 2012 at 11:00 AM and upon motion the meeting moved immediately to executive session.

Present: Bernholz, Provenzano, Johnson, Thompson, Beckman, Sudlow

Absent: Dr. Iannuzzi

Other Attendees: Justin Miller, general counsel to the LDC from Harris Beach, Amy Border, assigned secretary to the LDC, Press and TV

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**UC Board of
Health**

Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting of the UC Board of Health scheduled for 7 PM on November 5, 2012 was not convened. However, having noted the above, the Chairman, Dr. Tack indicated that while the Board could not approve the minutes of the October meeting, the members present would hear such reports as scheduled to be given.

Dr. Smith, Commissioner of Health, reported on the local response to Hurricane Sandy.

She noted that Art Snyder, Director of the county Emergency Communications/Emergency Management

Department convened the local group of individuals who would in this situation be responders in the situation at the Emergency Operations Center at the Law Enforcement Center on Sunday, October 29.

Representatives from all departments, i.e. Health, DSS, Fire, Police, Sheriff, etc. were present.

The group would be able to monitor calls, road closings, etc. Commissioner Smith noted that the group had been "pulled together" very well. On Monday, October 29, the Center opened at 8AM, with representatives participating in 12 hour shifts. Mrs. Veytia, Director of Patient Services, representing the Health Department took the first shift, Eleanor Troy, the second. County Executive Hein closed county offices at noon on October 29. Other Health Department

representatives met to assess how matters had been handled up to then, what people needed. A number of shelters were opened by the EOC: Belleire, county building in Ellenville (the Red Cross used and sent two nurses to work there), Kingston Community Center, Saugerties, New Paltz (the college opened a facility).

There was one death in Ulster County: a woman driving her car was killed when the roof from a mobile home blew off, hitting her wind shield. There were a number of power outages in the county. The wind and the river (record high at 9.5 feet over high tide) were major problems.

Commissioner Smith also noted that Shelley Mertens made many telephone calls throughout prior to the weekend to ensure that people had generators.

The group will meet again to assess what took place, to determine what was learned.

Dr. Tack raised the question who would direct an evacuation of any local facility, i.e. nursing home, hospital, etc. if the county had to do such. Apparently such an event would be handled by a combined, coordinated effort of local, state and others assisting. Further the Health Commerce System would assess the surge capacity (moving people into the area for safety purposes) as well.

Dr. Heller reported on the numbers regarding the Medical Examiner's work for September and October:

Calls received 19 for September, 24 October
Sites Visited 3 for September, 12 October
Autopsies 5 for September, 10 October
Suicides 1 for September, 2 October
No motor vehicle or homicides for either month

The subject of changing the time of monthly meetings will be brought up at the December meeting.

Dr. Smith noted that she had not seen any of the reports dealing with the Legionnaire clearance at the Governor Clinton. It was noted that it does not come under the aegis of the Health Department as it is a private apartment building. It was acknowledged that the landlord at the Governor Clinton had voluntarily reached out to the Health Department as to guidance on how to deal with the situation.

Nothing new has been heard about the measles situation. There being nothing further to report on the meeting ended at 7:30PM.

Present: Tack, Authenreith, Hilderbrandt; Absent: Delma, Woodley, Graham.

Other attendees: Commissioner Smith, Dr. Heller, Mrs. Veytia (conference call), Katrina Kouhout, Geddy Sveikauskas.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Ulster County
Town
Supervisors**

The T/Supervisors Association was convened by President John Valk, Supervisor T/Shawangunk on November 20, 2012 at 8:41 AM and adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Present: Shawangunk, Denning, Marletown, New Paltz, Ulster, Wawarsing, Olive, Rochester, Lloyd, Woodstock, T/Kingston, Saugerties, Rosedale

Following the approval of the minutes of the October meeting and the treasurer's report, Supervisor Quigley reported on his efforts in selecting a place for the Association's December Holiday Lunch. The group agreed to hold it at Christina's in Kingston on December 18 at noon.

Supervisor Valk then noted that the rules of the Association required that the senior supervisor of the group be the chairman of the nominating committee. Supervisor Leifeld of Olive is the senior supervisor. He will arrange for the remaining members of the nominating committee.

The date for the re-organization meeting will be January 15, 2013.

The next order of business was a presentation by Michael Courtney of RUPCO, the Outreach Coordinator of Green Jobs-Green New York.

There are 10 counties in the Hudson Valley that are covered by this program, with 5 outreach coordinators, each with 2 counties. He noted that this idea was part of legislation passed by the state legislature in 2009. The principal point involved is for home owners (small businesses are able to do so as well) to obtain an energy audit. About 92% of NYS homeowners qualify for this. There are various tiers to the program so ht those with different levels of income can be helped. Various items in the home, i.e., heat, electricity, ventilation can be evaluated. Apparently even rentals can be eligible through the landlords. He reported that the group expects to renew the program with the state legislature in another year.

Supervisor Quigley reminded the members to remember to contact DSS by November 23 if they wish to participate in the re-levy of the 21% in reference to the Safety Net funds.

The next speaker was Steve Changaris, Regional Manager, of National Solid Waste Management Association. Given the rather specific items that he referenced it appears that he does not favor the passage of the flow control law. It appeared that he was in favor of the county, industry representatives and finance people meeting during the next 3-5 months and working out a solution to the matter. During a brief exchange between the speaker and those in attendance, it was noted that apparently the flow control matter and Safety Net financing have some relationship depending on who the members in the group may ask...Mr. Hein has been quoted as saying yes; Mrs. Bernardo has been quoted has saying no.

Later during the meeting, Tim Rose of the RRA was asked if he had any observations to make regarding what Mr. Changaris has stated. He took exception to the items referenced regarding the law cases mentioned, i.e. did not believe any of them had any relation to maters in Ulster County. He suggested that flow control has "been around" for a long time, that present proposal is actually an amendment to the present law.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Best Wishes
for the
Coming New Year