



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.

President:
 Dare Thompson
darethompson@gmail.com
 (845) 236-3074

Newsletter:
 Jim McGarry
lwvmhr@hvc.rr.com
 (845) 336-0304

Membership:
 Esther Stickley
EssieOz36@aol.com
 (845) 331-2919

Need a ride? Want to car-pool? Contact:
 Dare Thompson:
darethompson@gmail.com
 (845) 236-307

Commentator

DECEMBER 2013 - JANUARY 2014

CALENDAR		
2013 -2014		
DECEMBER		
25		MERRY CHRISTMAS
JANUARY		
7	Tues. 7:15 PM	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989
8	Wed. 2 PM	Resource Development Committee Meeting, home of Margaret Sellers , 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston. 845-339-3180, mcsellers@aol.com Location tentative; please confirm with Margaret.
14	Tues. Noon – 2	A presentation on our study to update the LWVUS Agriculture position . Town of Esopus Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen. 845-338-5580. Contact 845-340-2003 if you'd like an assignment – or just come listen.
14	Tues. 5:30 PM	LWV Materials Management (Solid Waste) Study Committee , Gateway Diner Rt 9W just north of the Mid-Hudson Bridge, Highland. For info or to confirm: Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288 or packback56@yahoo.com
20	Mon. 8:30 - 9 AM	Listen to LWV members on Kingston Community Radio on WGHQ, AM 920. Go to www.mykcr.org to listen to it on your computer. Call 845-331-1004 to ask a question or make a comment. We are guests every 3 rd Monday of the month from 8:30-9 am.
25	Sat. 10:15 – noon	Ballot Access Issues with Tom Turco and Vic Work, Ulster County Commissioners of Elections. Town of Esopus Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen. 845-338-5580. Join us as we participate in the statewide LWV study on how NY's elections might be improved. For more on the state study, see http://lwvny.org/programs_studies.html (Call Dare Thompson to confirm date/time and place)
FEBRUARY		
4	Tues.	LWVNYS Advocacy Training Day in Albany. Details TBA Carpooling will be encouraged.
4	Tues. 7:15 PM	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989
7	Fri. 10:00 AM	Shared Services Study Committee , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Road, Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, echarwat@yahoo.com
11	Tues. 5:30 PM	LWV Materials Management (Solid Waste) Study Committee , Gateway Diner Rt 9W just north of the Mid-Hudson Bridge, Highland. For info or to confirm: Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288 or packback56@yahoo.com

PREZ SEZ...

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

We have been enjoying a little break in League activities and plan to do so for the rest of the month, but the new year and busy times will be upon us soon.

Please check this Commentator for ways to become involved. We have **two new studies (agriculture and ballot access)** beginning soon, and we hope to kick off a third one on **term limits** in mid-February at a location in Dutchess. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter about the first two. Information about the term limits study(which applies just to NY) can be found at http://lwvny.org/programs_studies.html

We also plan to send a carload of people to Albany on **February 4th for Advocacy Training Day** (formerly called Lobby Day), and meanwhile we will be following with interest as our state legislature swings back into action (or whatever word is appropriate for what they do!) We try to visit our reps here at home too and if you'd like to join us, just let me know.

Meanwhile at the county level we'll be particularly interested to watch the Ulster County legislature as party leadership changes for the first time in many years. Election Day brought few big changes in Dutchess, but that doesn't mean we won't be paying attention there too.

So the drama and opportunities to shape our government continue, and let's all plan on a **happy and successful new year** - with gratitude for all the good things that 2013 brought us. Joy to all!

Dare

(darethompson@gmail.com, 845-236-3074)

**MEMBERSHIP
NEWS**

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

**The Elizabeth
Askue
Fellowship Fund**

As announced earlier this fall, our beloved member Elizabeth Askue died on September 6. The family kindly named our League as a possible recipient of "in lieu of flowers" gifts, and we thank all those who did contribute to us in her memory.

We have set up a special Elizabeth Askue Fellowship Fund in her memory. The Fund's purpose is to help keep the League open to all, a purpose we think would please her. A primary way we will do this is to allow those for whom the dues are a barrier to pay only what they can. In recent years we know this has been a concern for several good people who truly appreciate being part of our organization.

Other ways to serve this purpose may arise over time and we will let Elizabeth's spirit be our guide. For now, the board will determine the use of the Fund. If you have anyone who would be a worthy recipient or if you have other suggestions for keeping our organization open to all, please let any board member know.

And many thanks, again, to all who made this Fund possible. If you did not contribute, but wish to, please send a check to LWV-MHR (or for a tax deduction, to LWV Education Fund) at PO Box 3564, Kingston, NY 12402.

We are sharing the names of all contributors with Elizabeth's family who seem pleased with this way of honoring her.

VOTER SERVICE

Report On The 2013 National Voter Registration Day

The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region participated in this event and contributed to its success. Congratulations! (For more information about this program go to <http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In just its second year, National Voter Registration Day was solidified as a national holiday with the help of thousands of volunteers, hundreds of organizations, a presence in all 50 states and every form of U.S. media.

Nine-hundred thirty-one (931) partners and 4,313 volunteers engaged potential voters on the ground, online and through media in a coordinated communication and field effort to raise public awareness about the importance of registering to vote, updating their voter registrations, and spotlighting the 2013 off-year elections. Through 809 voter registration events and easy-to-use online voter registration tools, 56,196 people were registered in the largest one-day effort of the year to register Americans to vote.

NVRD 2013 was mentioned in more than 700 news stories, totalling more than 212 million unique impressions, and the holidays' official hashtag, #CelebrateNVRD, trended twice nationally on Twitter.

Given the results that were achieved in the 2013 off-year election cycle, National Voter Registration Day is primed to register hundreds of thousands of voters next year as Americans head to the polls for the 2014 mid-term congressional elections

Naturalization Ceremony

Our league participated in the fourth Naturalization Ceremony held this year at the Ulster County Court House. Welcoming new citizens and providing important voter registration information is so League of Women Voters! Make it your New Year's resolution to participate in this uplifting, two- hour commitment in March, June, September or December, tentatively scheduled for the first Friday of the month. Information will be in the Commentator prior to each ceremony. Hope to see you there in 2014.

Moderating Guidelines

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

STUDY AND ADVOCACY

A New Year, Two New Studies - Learn All About 'Em!

AGRICULTURE

On **Tuesday, January 14, noon - 2**, we will start on the update to the LWVUS Agriculture position. We arrived at this position in 1988 so this update is sorely needed!

It will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

To see the study materials, go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/about-agriculture-update-and-committee> or call our local League phone: **845-340-2003**. If you'd like to report on one of these resources, please let us know - we'd love your participation!

BALLOT ACCESS

On **Saturday, January 25, 10:15 - noon**, we will start our participation in the Ballot

Access study from LWVNYS. This study was adopted at our state convention with great enthusiasm because we all know there's just something really worrisome about the way elections are going in New York State - particularly the primaries.

We are grateful that the two Ulster County Elections Commissioners, **Tom Turco and Vic Work**, will be joining us to give their "in the trenches" experience with the way things currently work.

NOTE! Tom's schedule MAY change, necessitating a slight change in time of day and location. PLEASE CONFIRM the details on our website or by calling 845-340-2003 before coming. We should know fairly soon.

Here's a MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION of the study from lwvny.org:

The study is limited to the ballot for state legislative and statewide offices, but it will consider the entire process by which individuals get on the ballot for the general election, including the issue of being endorsed by more than one political party. The Ballot Access study will examine the role of both the main and third parties in the process of gaining access to the general election ballot. Specifically, we will explore the process of gaining party lines on the general ballot via (1) New York's closed primary system, (2) fusion voting, and (3) Wilson Pakula certificates. The study will include discussion and comparison of all forms of primary systems and other states' experiences with fusion voting. In addition, we will explore the possible effects New York's ballot access process has on issues such as voter representation, corruption, voter turnout, and partisanship.

To see the preliminary **STUDY MATERIALS**, go to <http://lwvny.org/programs-studies/ballot-access.html>

League Happenings In Albany

A few ADVOCACY items from the League of Women Voters of New York State Board Summary for December 4, 2013

2014 Legislative Agenda: The board approved the recommendation from the Issues Specialists. Campaign Finance Reform, Election Reform, Natural Resources and Other League Positions will again be legislative priorities. The Women's Equality Agenda has been added.

February 4, 2014, Advocacy Training Day in Albany: This is an excellent opportunity for members to meet the State Issues Specialists and also attend Assembly and Senate committee meetings and floor sessions to observe the state legislature in action. The schedule of meetings will only be published on the previous Friday. This day has been known as Lobby Day in the past. The new name better describes the day's events. **We encourage everyone to attend. Call 845-340-2003 to join the Mid-Hudson group going and/or to get more info.**

Grassroots Conference Calls: The conference call about the Women's Equality Agenda was well received. Carol Mellor, Grassroots Director, plans another conference call in January to discuss energy and the environment. If you would like to be on the call (no need to talk - you can just listen), let Dare Thompson know at darethompson@gmail.com or [845-236-3074](tel:845-236-3074).

**Dutchess
County Shared
Services Study
Committee**

The Committee will be tracking the grants made by Dutchess County to municipalities for shared services under a new program initiated by County Executive Marcus Molinaro. These funds totaling \$1.4 million come from sales tax revenues that the county "took back" from the municipalities. The eleven grants made to date cover such areas as highway departments sharing fuel and equipment, a cloud based computing system for building, permitting and planning software, sharing assessment services, consolidating firehouses, and upgrading a tri-municipal sewer system. Additional grants are expected to bring the total to \$2 million.

The Committee has also been following the proposal to build a new jail in Dutchess County. On October 9th, the Poughkeepsie Journal sponsored an extremely well attended forum on the proposal. John Penney from the Journal moderated a panel that included Diane Jablonski, member of the League's Shared Services workgroup, Marcus Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive, and Mary Ellen Still, Commissioner of Probation for Dutchess County. John Penney had a set of prepared questions and allowed each panel member to respond. Members of the audience were given the opportunity to submit written questions.

The discussion covered a wide range of topics including the cost of housing inmates outside the county, the high average length of stay for inmates which contributes to overcrowding, the role of the DA, judges, and the Public Defender, and the potential cost and plans for a new facility. You can view the forum on the Poughkeepsie Journal website at

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20131011/NEWS01/310110038/>

Additional work includes a look at the process from arraignment through release back to the community and opportunities for expediting the process.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Friday, February 7, 10 AM, Ellie Charwat's, 7 Creek Bend Road, Poughkeepsie. Contact Ellie at echarwat@yahoo.com or 845-462-7061 to confirm. **All welcome.**

**Materials
Management
Committee
(Solid Waste)**

The Committee will shift its focus for 2014 in the attempt to reduce waste. On December 13th, we held our monthly meeting at the Gateway Diner. The general topic of discussion was new solid waste management at the County and State levels. Specifically, Resolution No. 135 passed by the Ulster County Legislature on May 14, 2013 was reviewed. The resolution proposes the annual regulation of approximately 3.1 million gallons of leftover paint in NY. Currently, counties and municipalities collect the paint at household hazardous waste days and pay vendors to take the paint. Now a trade association, the American Coatings Association has created a nonprofit program PaintCare (www.paintcare.org/) to manage the reuse, recycling, and disposal of the leftover paint. The resolution urges NYS Legislators to pass Bills A6930 and S4690, which would require the paint industry to be responsible for collecting and managing leftover paint in New York State. Passage of these bills would save local governments tens of thousands of dollars each year spent in the collection and disposal of such paint. Other states, including Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Oregon have passed similar legislation.

Our Committee is hoping to work with Dutchess County to encourage passage of legislation in support of the State Bills. We will also contact Leagues throughout the State to encourage them to do the same. In that way, we hope grassroots support will help push these State Bills forward.

Our next meeting will be at the Gateway Diner in Highland on January 14th, 5:30pm.

Cindy Lanzetta, Chairman

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

Audio recordings, addenda and minutes of Legislative Committee meetings can be found at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/legislature/committeesinfo/index.html>

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! We especially need observers for both the Ulster and Dutchess County legislatures. Observers go to meetings on subjects that interest them, often get to know the legislators, and report objectively to the Commentator monthly. While county meetings are our priority, you may observe your town or city board meetings if 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.

**Economic
Development and
Tourism
Committee**

Date: Dec. 4, 2013 Start Time: 6:00 p.m. Adjourn Time: 6:11 p.m.

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

The November 7, 2013, meeting minutes were approved.

Proposed Resolution No. 389 appropriating funds from an insurance recovery was approved following a discussion with Bob DiBella, Director of Public Transportation on the amount (\$41,000), the reimbursement process and regulations (to be sent to the committee).

Proposed Resolution No. 390 authorizing submission of an application regarding renewal for Community Development Block Grant Funds for the year 2013 was put on “hold” pending public hearing comments of Dec. 10.

All other proposed resolutions were approved:

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 12/16/13

**Legislative
Programs,
Education &
Community
Services**

Date: Dec. 11, 2013 Start Time: 5:06 p.m. Adjourn Time: 5:38 p.m.

Deputy Chairman David Donaldson called the meeting to order, attendance taken and the meeting minutes from November 13, 2013, were approved.

Proposed Resolution No. 313 urging school districts across Ulster County to consolidate was not approved following a discussion of its incompleteness

Proposed Resolution No. 379 approving a collective bargaining agreement between the county the Ulster County Community College Organization of Professional and Administrative Personnel was approved following a comment of Mark Komdat, UCCC Dean of Administration, for one year with a 1.6% increase.

Proposed Resolution No. 391 Adopting and issuing a negative declaration (SEQRA) regarding the former Sophie Finn school was approved. [See observer notes of EET committee meeting of Dec. 7, 2013]

Mark Komdat, Ulster County Community College Dean of Admissions briefed the committee on events, spring enrollment (good) and the awarded green improvement grant for the Sophie Finn project.

Lydia Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County, briefed the committee on programs:

Eastern Region (HV lab a hub), New World Foundation (food hub and food security, ag education with UCCC, and career interests of young people.

Budget is problematic because of Fed sequestration. Ulster County funding is critical.
 Annual meeting and report (handed out).
 Facilities – their new building expense to operate so they have contacted NYSERTA.
 Fruit specialist Michael Fargione left to join the Cary Institute.
 State contract problems are being worked out – payment pending.
 Nutrition programs – USDA and state related. SNAP funding until Feb. 2014 re Farm Bill.
 New York State Senator Tzaczyk has been a great supporter.
 CCEUC needs a new UC legislature representative via the legislative chairman.
 Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 12/16/13

**Laws and Rules,
 Governmental
 Services
 Committee**

Date: Oct. 21, 2013 Start Time: 6:05 p.m. Suspend Time: 6:27 p.m.
 Correction to 10/25/13 LWV Observer Notes: The notes should have referred to Legislator Peter Loughran, not Legislator Peter Donaldson (not a person in the legislature).
 Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 12/16/13

**Environmental
 Energy &
 Technology
 Committee**

Date: Dec. 5, 2013 Start Time: 5:47 p.m. Adjourn Time: 8:21 p.m.
 Chairman Carl Belfiglio called the meeting to order. The minutes of the November 6, 2013, were approved, as amended.
 Proposed Resolution No. 315 Urging the passage of Senate Bill 3379-A/ Assembly Bill 7799-A entitled, "An Act to amend the Public Service Law, in relation to providing consumers the option to elect not to use transmitting utility meters" was approved following an extensive discussion.
 Mr. Belfiglio invited representatives of Central Hudson to address the committee. John Maserjian, spokesperson of Central Hudson, and two other representatives of Central Hudson presented.
 Mr. Maserjian explained the PSC reviews and approves the use of the digital Encoded Receiver Transmitters (ERT) to replace analog meters. The ERT meters are not Smart Meters as the ERT meters are standalone devices, one way, in contrast to Smart Meters that are two way, and not approved in NYS, and part of the Smart Grid. The CH representatives went on to discuss replacement policies, technical features, standards, cost considerations and policies regarding customers. The committee joined the discussion with questions about these topics and concerns from citizens: including options for homeowners to continue use of analog meters (PSC does not allow analog meter reuse) and an option to "opt out" (CH would discuss alternatives) and how customer complaints are handled (there are informal and formal compliant processes). Dennis Doyle, Director, Ulster County Planning, asked about "testing in place" and the "opt out" provision.
 Citizens including Toby Stover and Michele Hertz were present and allowed to speak, ask questions, and raise their concerns. They addressed many of the previous items and asked about health and safety measures and the right to say "no" to replacement of an analog meter. They brought an instrument used to measure radio frequencies.
 Mr. Maserjian agreed to take the comments to Central Hudson VP in charge.
 Mr. Belfiglio emphasized this was not a public hearing.
 Proposed resolutions (No. 354, No. 355 and No.356) approving contract amendments were approved.
 Proposed Resolution No. 391 adopting and issuing a negative declaration (SEQRA) regarding the former Sophie Finn Elementary School was adopted.
 Old Business:

County Email System. There is an ongoing discussion with the County Executive Office.

Environmental Management Council Term Limits. County Attorney, Bea Havranek, Esq. discussed the law and terms, and ex officio members. This is moving toward a public hearing.

New Business:

Transmission line – Boundless Energy.

Mr. Belfiglio requested the minutes are sent to the new committee. He acknowledged this is his final meeting as chairman and he thanked the committee members, county counsel, staff and Chairman Bernardo.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 12/16/13

Health and Personnel Committee

The Committee was convened at 5:30 on 11-14-13 by Deputy Chair, Legislator Jeanette Provenzano and adjourned at 5:54.

Present: Provenzano, Belfiglio Ronk; Absent: Aiello, Parette, Rob

Other Attendees: DCE Ken Crannell, Deputy Clerk Krista Barringer, Erica Guerin, Legislative Counsel

Following the approval of the October, 2013 minutes, the committee dealt with four resolutions: # 281, #282, #283, and #286: All were passed.

#281: the county Department of Mental Health will receive additional funds from the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), specifically the Community Residential program which will be utilized for staffing and building repairs at Abel House, an 18 bed community residence;

#282: the county Depart of Mental Health will receive additional funding in the Community Support Services and Prior Liability Funds categories, earmarked for Gateway Community Industries to be utilized for Affirmative Business/Industry Programs;

#283: the UC Department of Mental Health has requested that the Chair of the UC Legislature be authorized to execute an agreement with the Onteora School District in the amount of \$52, 873 to continue the operation of substance abuse prevention services funded through the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services for January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014; and

#296: Involves a contract that the UC Legislature will have the power to approve the execution of certain contracts and amendments in the amount of \$50,000 or in excessof such amount entered into by the county.

The Personnel Report for October was reviewed. It was noted that there are 1,236 full time employees.

Note was made regarding the concerns in the T/Lloyd with respects to the children with cancer. T/Supervisor Hansut had requested assistance from Commissioner Smith of the local DOH. DCE Crannell offered information that on October 8 Commissioner Smith had requested the unit of the NYSDOH that handles cancer concerns to become involved and review these concerns. Apparently it is unusual for a local Commissioner of Health to make such a request of the state DOH per DCE Crannell. He noted further that Commissioner Smith has been particularly sensitive to the concerns of the families involved.

For the December meeting contact will be made with the new Board of Health Alliance and it will be requested to have representatives at the Health and Personnel Committee meeting to provide input on the status of the Health Alliance.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

UC Board of Health

The November 4, 2013 meeting of the UC Board of Health was convened by President, Dr. Mac Tack at 6:50. In as much as there was no quorum, the session was devoted to reports. The session ended at 7:20.

Present: Tack, Delma, Hilderbrandt; Absent: Woodley, Kelly, Graham

Others Present; Commissioner Carol Smith, Amy McCracken, Deputy Commissioner of UC Dept. of Mental Health, Nareida Veytia, Dept/Patient Services Director, Shelley Mertens, Environmental Health Director, Katrina Koulhout, Secretary to Commissioner Smith

There being no quorum, approval of the October 7 meeting minutes will be addressed at the December meeting. The remainder of the session was devoted to the following reports:

Commissioner Smith reported that:

- the relocation of Patient Services to the Mental Health building at Golden Hill had been completed under the direction of Mrs. Veytia. The remaining members of the UCDOH, i.e, Fiscal, Environmental, etc. to Golden Hill at the Mental Health building is expected to be complete by the last week of December or the first week of January;

- the Mental Health Services will move to another section of the Mental Health building and be handled by Hudson Valley Mental Health;

- the a)Community Health Assessment and b)Community Health Improvement Updates was on tract and expect to have a) the plan to the NYSDOH by November 15; and b) was still being worked on but apparently the expectation is to have the second aspect ready on time as well;

- the local DOH is still working with the county attorney regarding the permit that would be used by an applicant to be allowed to assemble what would be referred to as a mass gathering (of people). Apparently there is a group interested in sponsoring a mass gathering at the Winston Farm in Saugerties in July, 2014;

- the Supervisor of the T/Lloyd, Paul Hansut, had called the Commissioner regarding the queries from some of his local constituents regarding the cancer cases that have been noted in the town and the concerns that had been expressed. Dr. Smith indicated that she had contacted the NYSDOH, specifically the section handling cancer cases. She has also been contacted by various members of the print and television media. Commissioner Smith indicated that she had told them the story regarding these local concerns; that the NYSDOH cancer section had been notified about this and requested to evaluate to determine whether this was an example of a cluster of such cases. It is apparently too early in the investigation to call it such. Commissioner Smith also noted she had asked Ms Mertens to arrange to have the water in the town tested for any possible connection. Ms. Mertens explained the procedure that was followed in testing the local water supply. The results were negative.

Deputy Veytia provided an update on the compliance with employee Flu Vaccination Regulation. She noted that the report had been provided to the NYSDOH November 1. Apparently those who are designated to administer the shots are in compliance with the requirement to have had the shots themselves. Anyone who has not is being sent a letter asking for an explanation as to a lack of compliance and a reminder that if the individual did not get such a shot, he/she would be required to wear a mask.

The last report was provided by Shelley Metens, the Environmental Health Director. The report dealt with an update on the status of the case involving J. Rocco. She noted that Mr. Rocco had yet to pay the UCDOH the fine of \$5,000 that as of this date he had not done. Mr. Zweben, the attorney representing the county has written Mr. Rocco a letter with regards to the case and fine. Ms. Mertens went on to explain that the permit Mr. Rocco has that allows him to operate his establishment will expire at the end of February. Apparently, if Mr. Rocco has not paid the fine he owes to the local DOH by then, then the local DOH will

not renew his permit. She did note that he is in compliance with everything else that he must comply with. Question was raised that if such compliance was so, how could the local DOH not renew the permit. Apparently, according to Ms. Mertens, the law provides the local DOH with the authority to follow this procedure.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

UC Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors

The November 19, 2013 meeting of the UC Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors was convened by President, T/Supervisor Chipman at 8:32 and adjourned at 9:49.

Following the call to order, Mr. Chipman introduced the County Executive Michael Hein. Initially he congratulated everyone on the recent elections and wished everyone well.

Mr. Hein's comments dealt with the subject of suicides. He emphasized the numbers in regards to veterans and young people. With respects to the former he noted that the statistics suggested that there were more suicides with veterans than those in combat. He expressed his concern with regards to both groups. To address such he said that in this day technology is the means by which these groups can more quickly be reached. To do so Ulster County had employed MacWorks as represented by Cheryl Snyder to develop an app and this had been done through Apple. The result: access will be free, comprehensive, easy to use and UC is the first county in NYS to provide such to its constituents.

It is called UCSPEAK (Ulster County Suicide Prevention, Education, and Awareness Kit).

It will be available at the end of 2013, beginning of 2016. Mr. Hein said while it may not be the end all to be all, it is a valuable tool which would be in the user's hands to enable the person to get help soonest.

The next speaker listed on the agenda was Legislator Bernardo, Chair of the UC Legislature. She did not attend this meeting.

DSS Commissioner Iapocce, DC Beisel, and Director of Temporary Assistance Knudsen were the representatives from UCDSS who attended to explain the basics of the Winter Heating Program HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program).

In August, 2013 applications were sent out to potential recipients 60 and over. On 11-18-13 the opening day of the program over 1000 individuals applied for HEAP assistance at DSS. The program ends March, 2014. The maximum benefit is \$650. On January 2, 2014 the emergency program portion starts. The maximum amount is \$600. An emergency means the customer has no more than a ¼ tank of fuel or what 10 days would involve. The fuel supplier is A Better Choice Fuel Service (845-338-4222, contact Tom Raftery). The DSS Contact is Beth Bonestell, 845-334-5333.

The Commissioner noted that the efforts to handle this program and other DSS programs are a collaborative effort between DSS, the County, towns, and city working together, which he lauded.

The next item on the agenda dealt with the methods of handling recycling electronics.

Initially, Tim Rose, the Executive Director of the UC Resource Recovery Agency, noted that it will not be asking the county for any funds for 2014. Further, from the budgetary work he has done going forward for 2015 the agency's financial picture looks good and it may be able

To lower rates that the agency charges the towns.

The handling of recycling electronics was addressed by Michelle Bergkamp, Recycling Coordinator. Apparently, there is a problem in that many of the items involved have lead in them. As such the laws covering the handling and disposing of such items, i.e., older TVs and computers has to be carefully followed. There are only 3 places in the US, and then Mexico and India, worldwide that can properly dispose of such items. Ms. Bergkamp provided the group with various suggestions re pick up and disposing and the group

discussed, but no specific conclusions were reached.

The group decided to hold its annual holiday luncheon at the Reservoir Inn on December 17 at 12 noon.

The minutes of the 10-15-13 association meeting were approved. Supervisor Leifeld provided the treasurer's report: \$7,277 in the account. He will advise the results of the work of the nominating committee at the December luncheon. The slate would include candidates for president, vice-president, and treasurer.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

