



Commentator

February 2017

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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WE WELCOME THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT ALL EVENTS!		
2017	Check our online calendar for updates.	
February		
4	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Changing NYS Voting Laws at Deisings Bakery, 111 North Front Street, Kingston. For more information, see Voter Service on page 4
7	5:30 PM	Materials Management (Solid Waste) Study Committee at the Main Course Restaurant (175 Main Street, New Paltz, NY 12561). For more information, contact Kathy OConnor at (845) 757-2247 or occonnor.kraye@gmail.com .
9	4:00-6:00 PM	Board Meeting at Jacki Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Rd, Hurley, NY 12443.
11	12:00 PM	NYS Constitutional Convention Discussion at Margaret Sellers's, 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston, NY 12401. Helpers should arrive at 11 AM and participants at 11:30 AM for a potluck lunch. RSVPs requested.
20	8:30-9:00 AM	Kingston Community Radio, WGHQ 920 AM LWV On Air. Go to http://www.mykcr.org to listen on your computer. Call 845-331-9255 to ask a question or make a comment.
28	1:45-3:30 PM	Book Club Meeting Club at Enzo's Pizzeria, Boices Lane, Lake Katrine – "Tipping Point" by Malcom Gladwell For more information, contact daisy at daisytyler68@hotmail.com or Jacki at jackim@hvc.rr.com . NOTE: The meeting for January 24th was cancelled due to the weather.
March		
10	11:30 AM	Naturalization Ceremony, Ulster County Court House, 285 Wall St., Kingston.
28	7:15 PM	Showing of <i>Electoral Dysfunction</i> at the Rosendale Theatre, 408 Main St, Rosendale, NY 12472.



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Prez Says

I wanted to wait until after the Women’s March on Washington before writing to you all. I was fortunate enough to be able to take a bus to Washington D.C. thanks to the organizational talent of thousands of women who hired busses, sold tickets, sent emails, reserved bus parking spaces, planned routes, bought Liberty Crowns, donated snacks, made lists, it was amazingly well organized. My immediate three-some ended up somewhere on Independence Avenue, we heard speeches through loudspeakers, but could not see the jumbotron, we were squeezed in the crowd, did some slinking through the gaps, did a little marching, and kept reading other people’s signs. Creative, funny, sad, powerful, playful, irreverent signs. I have been mesmerized by the follow-up reporting, the images, the numbers, the strange response by Trump and his staff.

But now it is time to go back to work. Do what we can to change legislation at the local and state level. Educate ourselves and others about the issues, the details, how change actually comes about in Albany, in Ulster County, in Dutchess County. Receive the influx of people looking for a way to make a difference. Support them as they desire to change the world. We will have more womanpower, we will have more ideas, we will need to figure out how to use these resources to bring about change.

Come to our organizational meeting at Deisings, 111 North Front Street, Kingston on Saturday, February 4th at 10:00 am to work on making New York State voting laws less restrictive.

Join us at Margaret Seller’s home, 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston, on Saturday, February 11 at 12:00 noon to discuss whether New York should hold a Constitutional Convention.

Jolanda Jansen

Visions of the March on Washington



Jolanda Jansen Merrill Sunderland & Candis Merrill



Peter & Ashlyn McGarry



Membership News

Note to League Members:

The Nominating Committee for 2017 has been meeting with regards to the work of selecting possible nominees for those positions which are completed this year: Vice-President, Treasurer, director (6 terms expire this May), and 3 non-board members for the next nominating committee.

If there are any members of the League who are interested in being considered, or if there are those who would like to recommend a possible candidate, please contact Lee Cane at 338-0706 before February 15, 2017.

Lee Cane, Chairman Nominating Committee

VOTER SERVICE

Moderating Guidelines

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

What Voter Service has done and What We're Doing

SAVE THE DATE On March 28 the LWV will be sponsoring the showing of **ELECTORAL DYSFUNCTION** at the Rosendale Theatre. Time 7:15. Stay tuned for further details.

Changing New York State Restrictive Voting Laws

Time to get down to business. There will be an organizational meeting at Deisings, 111 North Front St., Kingston, on February 4 at 10am to plan our strategy to get this work done. We hope to have Aimee Allaud from LWVNYS there to guide us. To help prepare for this meeting, please see www.lwvny.org under "Election Law Reform" for the latest on updates from the State league. To view the meetings and minutes of the New York State Board of Elections, google NYS Board of Elections and click "Public Information." Agendas, transcripts and archived webcasts are posted. The last meeting was held January 9, 2017 and the minutes have yet to be posted. They do not seem to have regularly monthly meetings and please note, judging from their agendas, they are more focused on oversight than innovation. If you have not already sent an RSVP that you will be attending this meeting, please do so by contacting Jean McGarry at jfmcg@hvc.rr.com. Looking forward to seeing you and rolling up our sleeves to get to work. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Jean McGarry

STUDY AND ADVOCACY

Materials Management Committee

The Materials Management Committee met January 3rd at the Main Course Restaurant in New Paltz. We welcomed Jennifer Clark (sent by Jolanda Jansen), a lawyer originally from Poughkeepsie, who explained her legal background in Wisconsin. We're hoping she continues to join our meetings.

An overwhelming majority of the people in attendance expressed an interest in visiting the Delaware County Compost/Recycling Facility. Some of whom had already visited it. We're looking to schedule this for when the weather gets warmer, perhaps a Wednesday in April.

We looked at our list of possible topics to address in the coming year. We're going to continue our focus on getting Paint Stewardship legislation passed in New York State.

Next in priority is concerted action to assist in school education activities regarding recycling, composting and reducing trash. See CafeteriaCulture.org. We'd also like to study Textile reuse and recycle, as well as minimizing Food Waste, encouraging the concept of REFUSE in the first place, and last ... compare the environmental options of disposing of human remains.

Update on NYS Paint Stewardship Legislation

Both bills have been reintroduced this year: Senator O'Mara's bill (S881) and Assemblyman Stirpe's bill (A1038). **Letters To Assemblyman Englebright** (Chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation) **Are Needed Now**. Please refer to the template letter noted on the New York State Product Stewardship Council's page nypsc.org/paint/ Follow the instructions on that page. And it would be great if you would send me a copy of your letter as well (oconnor.kraye@gmail.com).

(Submitted by *Kathy O'Connor*)

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>

**Ulster County
Legislative
Committee on Public
Health and Social
Services**

The UC Legislative Committee on Public Health and Social Services was convened by Legislator Chris Allen, Deputy Chairman (Chairman Lopez was being delayed by traffic problems) on 12-5-16 at 6:04 and adjourned by Chairman Legislator Lopez at 6:43.

Present: Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner; Absent: Roberts (ill)

Others: Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell, Nettie Tomshaw, Secretary to the Committee

Following the call to order, the minutes of the November, 2016 meeting were approved by the committee.

There were 29 resolutions that were on the agenda for the committee to address.

Initial, Resolutions #536 and #539 were dealt with, and while referring to the same subject, discussed and then voted on individually. Both the committee initially discussed and later DCE Crannell made contributions to the committee to broaden the general information for it.

#539 deals with the UC Medical Examiner's office, which is part of the UC Department of Health: specifically a contract between UC and Dr. Charles A. Catanese, for the latter to perform forensic pathology services (forensic pathology services, medical examiner coverage, autopsies) for Ulster County. These services are to be performed per contract agreement October 23, 2016-December 31, 2017. For these services the doctor is not to receive in excess of \$250,500. Passed

DCE Crannell later advised the committee that there had been changes in how the Medical Examiner's Office is operated. For example, previously there had been 90 autopsies, in 2016/2017 anticipated 170; the impact of the Opioids problems; the need to increase the number of staff; and to provide appropriate compensation. Apparently there was a medical examiner and a deputy medical examiner who were receiving remuneration based on 17 hours part time when they were needing to comply with legal requirements of 24/7, 365 days per year. This has necessitated in increasing financial costs. Additionally, a new position has been created: medical death scene investigator. This individual will probably have EMT, nursing background. The job of this person is to provide "eyes" to a death scene and determine if there is a need for an autopsy. Salary for this position is still being negotiated; there are about 12 individuals being interviewed. Additionally, it apparently is hoped that employing this doctor as the forensic pathologist (lives in Orange County) that autopsies will be completed in 45 days rather than as much as 6 months which would improve matters in general for families of the deceased. Passed

#536 dealt with a contract NMS Labs (National Medical Services, Inc.) The services that these labs would perform/conduct are postmortem laboratory testing for the UC Department of Health, Office of the Medical Examiner. Compensation for services performed is \$95,000. Passed

#491 Dealt with the reappointment of Karla Peterson to the Community Services Board and #492 her reappointment to its PW/DD Subcommittee. Both passed

#504 dealt with approving a contract with Youth Advocate Program for UCDSS, a program which provides community-based alternatives to detention for young people. Cost \$522,000 (36% Federal, 29% State, 35% County). Passed

\$505 dealt with approving an amendment to a county contract for UCDSS with United Way to extend the existing contract to 12-31-17 at a cost of \$300,000 (51% Federal 49% County

to provide payroll related expenses. Passed

#506 dealt with an amendment to an existing contract with the VMC Group, Inc. to provide transportation management services for UCDSS pre-school and early intervention program through 12-31-17, at a cost of \$107,351.76 (50% Federal, 50% State). Passed

\$507 dealt with an amendment to an existing contract for professional services by extending it to 12-21-17 for UCDSS by YWCA to provide intensive home-based family preservation services at a cost of \$443,339 (36% Federal, 29% State, 35% County). Passed

#508 dealt with a contract between the county and Family of Woodstock for the latter to conduct registration and inspection, for which it is approved by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, of all non-legally exempt day care providers within the geographic boundaries of UC that receive a subsidy from UCDSS at a cost of \$139,787 (100% state). Passed

#509, 510, 512 were "bundled" by the committee. Each dealt with a county contract with Family of Woodstock as the cost would 51% Federal and 49% County. Each was for 1-1-17 to 12-31-17.

#509 would arrange for shelter at Washbourne House and provide supportive programming for victims of domestic violence (cost \$333,448);

#510 to provide emergency services, telephone hot line and walk in emergency services (cost \$120,328);

#512 operates 2 homeless shelters, the Darmstadt Residence and the Family Inn and provide an array of services for those staying at the shelters (cost \$1,500,000).

Each of the above 3 were voted on and passed.

#511, #513, #514 were also "bundled" by the committee. Each dealt with a county contract with Family of Woodstock, the cost would 36% Federal, 29% State, and 35% county for each. Each was for 1-1-17 to 12-31-17. Each would provide professional services or the sole source of service.

#511 Family would provide emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth at Family House (cost \$281,888.55);

#513 Family would provide an Independent Living Program to prepare youth for the challenges and responsibilities of living as an adult after discharge from foster care (cost \$75,000);

#514 Family would provide domestic violence support groups, case management, and educational programs (Cost \$73,511).

Each of the 3 above voted on and passed.

#517 dealt with a county contract (UCDSS) with Family of Woodstock to provide professional services for handling homeless individuals who require a more concentrated level of service delivery due to complications from substance abuse, mental health and/or criminal justice issues at a cost of \$87,470.00 (100% county).

#527 and #528 dealt with approving contracts with Health Alliance for NYS OMH (Office of Mental Health) #527 at a cost of \$99,358 (100% county funding) and #528 to provide the operation of the methadone clinic at a cost of \$100,000 (100% county funding)

Both of the above passed

\$529 dealt with a county contract with ARC-Ulster-Greene to provide professional services to operate a program through a grant from NY Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) which has directed the UC Department of Mental Health to enter into an agreement with ARC-Ulster Greene. The latter is to provide two work activity centers to

provide vocational, rehabilitation, training, etc. services for intellectually challenged, emotionally disturbed and developmentally disabled at a cost of \$277,348 (58% State, 42% County). Passed

#531, #532, #533, #534, #535: each of these contracts that the county will enter into involved the UC Department of Mental Health. Professional Services are being sought.

#531 NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse has directed UCDMH to enter into an agreement with Family Services to allocate funding for the administration of the Ulster Prevention Council and Primary Prevention Program at a cost of \$333,017 (100% Federal) Passed

#532 the county contract to be entered into with Family Services to provide advocacy services to those individuals and families seeking such services within the substance abuse service system at a cost of \$100,000 (100% County). Passed

#533 the county contract with NYSOMH and OASAS which directs UCDMH to contract with Family of Woodstock to allocate designate funding to provide for case management prevention and community crisis services at a cost of \$1,089,610 (75% State, 25% county). Passed

#534 UC Department of Mental Health has been directed by NYS Office of Mental Health to contract with Astor Services For Children & Families to allocate designated funding for the provision among other things of supportive case management services, children/youth with serious emotional disturbances, etc. at a cost of \$300,734 (60% State, 40% county). Passed

#535 the contract between UC and the Mental Health Association (an independent not-for-profit corporation) is as a result of direction by NYSOMH to UC Department of Mental Health to enter into an agreement with Mental Health Association to allocate various funding that former has received from the NYSOHM at a cost of \$2,002,002 (96% State, 4% county). Passed

#540 UCDMH direct by NYSOMH, OASA, and OPWDD to enter into an agreement with Gateway Community Industries to allocate designated funding for various types of services, i.e. residential, vocational, rehabilitation, etc. services for intellectually challenged, provide non-medical care coordination at cost of \$2,564, 563 (3% federal, 94% State, 3% county). Passed

#542 UC DMH has been directed by OMH to enter into an agreement with Access: Supports for Living: to allocate designated funds for the provision of crisis intervention services to provide children and adults in the community who have such problems who are in need of such at a cost of \$701, 400 (100% state). Passed

\$550 Authorized the Chairman of the UC Legislature to enter into an agreement with NYS Department of Health for the Early Intervention Program in the "annual amount of \$69,102 for the term October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2021. Passed

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - March 2017**Below is the first of our articles highlighting the lives and accomplishments of notable American women****Women In New York State History**

Each quarter in 2016 the Daily Freeman published a special section highlighting people, both men and women, who have made a "tremendous difference in New York State" across the nation and the world in a variety of fields over the years." The other papers involved are the Daily Dispatch, the Record and the Saratogian. The names indicated here do not include all who have been mentioned in the Daily Freeman special section.

Grandma Moses born Anna Mary Robertson in 1860 lived until she was 101 (1961). It was not until late in life, at age 67, that she turned to painting as a means to make a living following her husband's death. Her works were exhibited in New York City in the late 1930s and elsewhere for decades. She signed her work "Moses", but a NY newspaper referred to her as "Grandma Moses". She continued to paint until her death. The Bennington Museum in Vermont has the largest collection of her work.

Kate Mullany, born in Ireland in the 1840s, migrated with family to the US, settled in Troy, NY. Responsible for developing first women's labor union: The Collar Laundry Union (CLU), which went on strike (sought higher wages for ironing collars) and after 5 days employers did raise wages. Once competition from production of collars too great this labor union died. In 1999 her home became a national historic site.

Lucille Ball, born in Jamestown, N.Y., who became famous star of movies, radio and TV. Married Desi Arnaz, well-known Cuban bandleader; together creating production company, Desilu Studios, which produced "I Love Lucy" In 1960 she divorced Arnaz; became first woman to control a large studio, which she sold in 1968 for \$17 million. She died in 1989 at 78.

Sojourner Truth, born in Ulster County (named Isabella) late 1790s, to James and Betsy, Dutch speaking, who were the property of Johannes Hardenbergh, an American colonel in the War for Independence. Her story is one of being a slave until, by NYS Law, because she was born prior to 1799, she was freed. However, by 1810 she had married another slave and had 5 children who had to wait until the boys were 28 and the girls 25 for them to be freed. As time went on she lived in Kingston and NY City, she preached with white people on equality. In the early 1840s she changed her name to Sojourner Truth and began to speak to ending slavery everywhere. While she learned to speak English as a child, she did not learn to read or write. She settled in Michigan. Died November 26, 1883,"revered to the present as a heroine in the history of human rights in America."

Other women noted in NYS history:

Julia Etta Crane: founder of the Crane School of Music located in Potsdam, N.Y.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton: one of the most eminent supporters for women's rights. In July, 1848 at the first women's rights convention which was held in Seneca Falls, N.Y., her Declaration of Sentiments stated that men and women were created equal and entitled to equal rights. Over time she exerted much influence in women's path to the 19th amendment to the US Constitution which granted women the right to vote.

Lena Horne: born June, 1917 in Brooklyn, N.Y., famous Afro-American singer, actress, TV and movie star; supporter and active in the civil rights movement. Married to Louis Jones 1937-1944, 2 children; Married to Lennie Hayton, white bandleader in 1947 in

Paris, France. Initially, kept secret due to the racial aspects. He was the music director for MGM. They remained together, although separated, and never divorced. She won a Tony in 1981 for *The Lady and Her Music*. She died May 9, 2010.

Madeleine L'Engle: author of "A Wrinkle in Time". A science-fiction novel published in 1962 for which she received the Newberry Medal in 1963. On best seller list and has apparently never gone out of print.

Geraldine Ferraro (D, NY): first woman to be nominated for the position of vice-president (1984) by a major political party. Prior to that she had been nominated and elected to the House of Representatives from NYS in 1978, 1980, and 1982.

Ella Fitzgerald born in 1917, died in 1996. Noted as American jazz singer, referred to as American Ambassador of American Music. Received many awards, among them 12 Grammy Awards.

Susan B. Anthony: born 1820; 19th century woman who partnered with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and fought for women's rights to vote.

Margaret Bourke-White: born in 1904 in the Bronx-died in 1971 at age 67. Photojournalist who made a name for herself for over 50 years of traveling the world photographing world leaders, news events, wars. Her work appeared in *Time*, *Fortune*, *Life*...first foreign photographer permitted to take pictures of Soviet industry; first hand American female war photo journalist; first female photographer for Henry Luce's *Life Magazine*. First woman war correspondent attached to the Army Air Force when the US entered WWII.

Gertrude Ederle: born 1905, died 11-30-2003 at the age of 98. World class swimmer; swam English Channel August, 1926. Only 5 men had done so before her. Also did the 35 miles faster: 14 hours, 31 minutes...nearly 2 hours faster than the best of the men.

Shirley Chisholm: born 1924 in Brooklyn, NY-died, 2005 at age 81; first black woman elected to US House of Representatives in 1968, represented NYS; continued to be re-elected for a total of 14 years retiring in 1982. Ran unsuccessfully for US President in 1972.

Katharine Graham: born 1917; daughter of Eugene Meyer, the owner of the *Washington Post*. She married Philip Graham, who her father put in charge of the paper. When the latter committed suicide in 1963, she eventually became the publisher. During her term, she authorized the publication of the government documents about the Vietnam War when the White House blocked the *NY Times* from doing so. The Supreme Court decision that eventually followed was in favor of the paper.

In 1972 she oversaw Woodward and Bernstein regarding the break in at Democratic National Committee offices in the Watergate, which eventually forced President Nixon to resign.

She was the First woman to head a Fortune 500 Company. Won Pulitzer Prize for her book "Personal History".

Lee Cane