



Commentator

FEBRUARY 2012

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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CALENDAR		
2012		
FEBRUARY		
7	Tues. 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting, home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Rd., Kingston, 845-339-3180.
9	Thurs. 2 pm	Resource Development meeting, home of Margaret Sellers. Date is tentative and time is tentative. Please confirm.
16	Thurs. 6:45 -9 pm	“Hot Topic” discussion at Crafted Kup, 44 Raymond Ave., Po’keepsie. 845-483-7070, www.craftedkup.com . Dutch treat coffee and dessert. What’s going on with the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency? Brand new solid waste coordinator, Lindsay Carille, will share her questions and concerns and welcomes ours.
23	Thurs. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee, Gateway Diner, Rt 9W near Mid-Hudson Bridge in Highland. Primary topic: plans for March 6 event (below).
24	Fri. 9 am	Free breakfast (arrive by 8:45) and tour at Ulster Co. BOCES Career and Tech Center, 319 Broadway (Route 9W) , Port Ewen, NY 12466, 845- 255-1400, www.ulsterboces.org . Limit of 25. Contact Irene McInnis to register: 845-336-0487, iemcinnis@aol.com
MARCH		
6	6:30-9 pm	Sustainability and Zero Waste Interactive Workshop, SUNY New Paltz, Student Union. LWVMHR partnering. Details TBA.
	NOTE:	LWV MHR Board Meeting, usually scheduled for 1st Tuesday, will be rescheduled. Date and location TBA.

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

MEMBERS: Need a ride? Want to car-pool?
 Contact: Dare Thompson darethompson@gmail.com
 (845) 236-3074

Prez Sez...

This continues to be a really interesting time to be a League member in Ulster and Dutchess Counties. Resource recovery, jails, redistricting, charter revisions, tax cuts and shared services - topics we've really zeroed in on over the years - are now all over the news, and it's good to be constructive participants in the dialogue.

Also, in a time that the air is too often poisoned with partisan politics, it is satisfying to offer reasonable and relatively calm voices to that dialogue (even when we might have a few really choice words begging to be let free).

I hope you can tell from this Commentator that we are juggling a lot of issues and activities that offer many opportunities for YOU to get involved. Please jump in when and where you can. ALL our meetings are open and you'll be warmly greeted.

Surely it isn't hard to see that our communities really need us - and you!

Dare

PROGRAM NEWS***JOIN US at BOCES Career & Tech Center******319 Broadway (Route 9W), Port Ewen, NY 12466******Friday, February 24th******Breakfast at 9 a.m.****(arrive by 8:45)**(prepared by Culinary students)**followed by a****Comprehensive Tour of the Facility****led by Principal Genna Suraci**and**Assistant Principal Victor Owen***Please RSVP before February 15th***(Tour Limit is 25)**Contact Irene McInnis 845-336-0487**e-mail iemcinnis@aol.com***What is going on with the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency?**

Join us on **Thursday, February 16, from 6:45 - 9** for our first-ever Dutchess County "Hot Topics" event. We will be joined by the just-appointed solid waste coordinator, Lindsay Carille, who has been a senior planner in the county's Planning and Development Department.

Since she has only just now taken on this job, she is filled with more questions than answers, but she is eager to hear our thoughts and concerns and share hers. You will be happy to hear that she attended our LWV/CRREO conference last November at SUNY New Paltz.

This will be at **Crafted Kup, 44 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie** (Arlington), where new LWV members, Ken and Janet Kraft, are the owners. Ken is a regular member of our Solid Waste Study Committee and Janet attends occasionally as well. Thanks, Krafts!

The discussion will get underway at 7 pm, but come early to get dessert and tea, coffee or another drink before we get started.

Call 845-483-7070 or go to www.craftedkup.com for directions and other info.

VOTER SERVICE**LWVNY
Position on
Statewide
Redistricting**

Below please find a press release that the State League just distributed to the media concerning the recently released LATFOR proposed Senate and Assembly district lines. Questions or requests for comments from the media should be referred to the state office or Barbara Bartoletti directly (518-469-8905).

The State League website includes a link to the LATFOR website on which people can view the proposed lines (<http://www.latfor.state.ny.us/maps/>) . There is also a link to a website in which people can enter their own address and see the current and proposed lines for their own Senate and Assembly districts http://data.lohud.com/dist_web/address_stateredist.php..

And, for your information, Barbara Bartoletti testified for the State League at the LATFOR hearing in Albany on Monday, Jan. 30. Check her blog at *Capitol Beat* <http://lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/>

Press Release

For Immediate Release
Friday, January 27, 2012

For more information contact:
Barbara Bartoletti 518 465-4162
518 469-8905

LEAGUE DISAPPOINTED WITH LATFOR PROCESS

The League is extremely disappointed that there has been no change in the legislatively-controlled LATFOR process that produced the proposed state legislative district lines. The League for decades has called for an independent commission to draw fair lines devoid of partisan gerrymandering. Competitive elections are the lifeblood of democracy and these proposed lines are drawn to ensure political incumbency of the parties in power for the next decade. It is therefore no surprise that they have been the subject of so much criticism given the inherent self-interest of the process. One of the first, and clearest, critiques of the lines comes from our colleague Bill Mahoney at NYPIRG, who looked at a rising population inequality among all the districts. His analysis makes evident that the process has resulted in even more gerrymandered lines in the state Senate than those produced through previous cycles of political gerrymandering.

We expect that the public demand for reform shown over this last year allows for a unique opportunity in time to fundamentally alter the redistricting process in this state. The governor has publicly stated that these lines are unacceptable and he will consider a veto. We agree. The League will work with the governor and the legislature to realize lasting structural reform to this fundamentally flawed redistricting process. The certainty of achieving reform for 2022 is critical.

ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ulster & Dutchess Counties Solid Waste

SOLID WASTE STUDY GROUP TAKES OVER DINER!

There were 9 (!) of us at the Gateway Diner in Highland this past week for our first meeting of the new year and we all had lots to talk about.

Much of our work is behind the scenes as we attend legislative and agency meetings and do research, but there are two very public events coming up in the next few weeks that would be perfect for those of you who want to learn more about how our communities are trying to reduce, reuse and recycle.

On February 16th there will be a discussion about the changes occurring at the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency (RRA) as a new administration takes over and the RRA

wrestles with the creation of a 10-year solid waste management plan that will pass muster with the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). (See calendar and article for details.)

On March 6 (see calendar) there will be an event at SUNY New Paltz that will attempt to bring together all the local groups working on waste reduction and other environmental issues. An EPA staff member will be participating and the planning is already generating enthusiasm and good works, so it promises to

be inspiring. Stay tuned for details as they develop.

Also, don't hesitate to join our study committee at the Gateway Diner (on 9W in Highland, near the Mid-Hudson Bridge) on Thursday, February 23rd, 5:30 pm. (It's almost always on Tuesdays but this month it had to be moved.) We love visitors as well as new study committee members!

Dutchess County Shared Services Study

The Dutchess Shared Services Study Committee now includes seven regular and very knowledgeable attendees, including several new or returning LWV members. It is continuing to explore the most fertile areas for shared services by talking with many local, county and state elected and appointed officials.

It welcomes your involvement. Just contact committee chair, long-time LWV member Ellie Charwat, at echarwat@yahoo.com for the next meeting time and date.

Our next Commentator will give brief bios of the committee members. Meanwhile, we introduce Ellie to those few who might not know her. As an educator, Ellie has worked for President Kennedy's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and taught English to young people in Brazil, Thailand, Italy and Greece and to adult immigrants in Poughkeepsie. For many years she was Executive Director of the Marist College School of Adult Education and taught classes at Marist in American Government. Beyond education, her wide community service includes two terms as a Poughkeepsie Town Councilwoman and leadership positions with many non-profits including the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Arlington Rotary Club, the United Way Impact Council, and of course LWV Mid-Hudson.

Ulster County Shared Services Study

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

Additional links of interest include

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

LWV Golden Hill Health Care Center

October 19, 2010 the League Consensus Report to the Ulster County Legislature and various reference materials can be found at: http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ny/midhudson/Action_Study.html#s03

For continuing coverage on this critical issue see our Observer Corp notes below

UC OBSERVER CORP

Join the Observer Corps!

Join Margaret Sellers, Vic Melville, Lee Cane, Jim McGarry and Lee Ridgway in covering meetings at the Ulster and Dutchess County Legislatures, cities, towns and school boards. Currently some of the Ulster legislative committees are being covered. Lee Cane also covers the Board of Health, and the Ulster Co. Supervisors. We need observers for additional meetings to help ensure open government and sunshine. We also need an observer for the new Golden Hill LDC when it forms.

Call Margaret Sellers to volunteer, 845-339-3180, mcsellers@aol.com.

What's new from our Observers?

Read in the Observer notes how new U.C. Legislative Chairwoman, Terry Bernardo, is directing the Legislature and its committees to focus on policy, a long time LWV concern. Read Vic Melville's write up of the Government Service Committee for more information on government functioning. Also see Lee Cane's Health Committee report on scheduling and its relationship with the Executive. Lee also reports that John Valk is continuing to preside over the U.C. Town Supervisors and they have concerns about voting privacy, another long time League concern. Read the whole Observer reports for more details.

And join our group! We provide as much support and training as you need.

Ulster County Legislature Meeting

To view monthly proceedings, go to <http://www.totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=ulster>;
Archived and upcoming resolutions: <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/index.html>
Committee Agendas/Minutes: <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/committeesinfo/index.html>
Legislative Calendar: <http://www.calendarwiz.com/uccalendar> . There are links available to send an e-mail reminder to yourself and to download an event to your computer based calendar.

Golden Hill Legislature & Committee Meetings

For those with an abiding interest in LDCs, the following links may be useful:
Municipal Use Of Local Development Corporations And Other Private Entities: Division Of Local Government And School Accountability Background, Issues and Recommendations
www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/ldcreport.pdf
Procedures For Forming And Changing Not-For-Profit Corporations In New York State
www.ag.ny.gov/bureaus/charities2/pdfs/how_to_incorporate.pdf

Meeting of the UCRRA Board

January 18, 2012, Agency Offices, Kingston, 4:30 pm
Stephen Wing opened the Annual Meeting
Motions made, vote taken to appoint following officers:

- Leon Smith –Chairman
- Dennis Helm – Vice Chairman
- Al Teetsel – Treasurer
- Stephen Wing – Secretary

The Board decided to wait until the February meeting to appoint coverage for the three committees the Board oversees.

The Board Investment Policy will remain the same.

There are still Board members who need training in the State's Public Authority Law.

Annual disclosure forms are due for Ulster County. There is also additional personal critique of Board members requested for forms that go to the State Budget Office that oversees Public Authorities. The Agency will also have to assess how well it has attained the goals it laid out in its Mission Statement of last year.

There was a discussion on the changes in the Public Meetings Law as it pertains to public authorities. Agendas, including resolutions, shall be provided to the public in advance of meetings. The Agency website shall also post it in advance. Hard copy shall be available at the meetings. The Agency will begin compliance for their February meeting.

The Annual Meeting ended and the Board went into their Regular Session.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting. There were no announcements.

Director Tim Rose made his report. Last year the Agency met its obligations of materials sent to Seneca Meadow and High Acres landfills. A lot of that was due to the destruction caused by storms Irene and Lee. Recyclables continue to decline. Michelle Bergkamp is in the process of putting together figures on recycling in Ulster County for a report to the DEC.

Timothy DeGraff reported on the finances. Last year was helped by the sales of recyclables (much of which came from a unique situation with Westchester County). Things do not look as profitable for this year. The price for plastic is down but the price for fiber is up. The Agency has an arrangement to sell its single stream recyclables with the provision that the same company haul away glass for free.

Hudson Baylor has been bought out by a company located in the Carolinas.

Michelle Bergkamp reported that there is to be no electronic waste in household refuse. The law has changed and haulers have been notified, education done and signs put up.

Michelle and Tim visited a composting facility in Onondaga County. She did a visual presentation on the extended aerated static pile system used. She would like the Board's permission to apply for a grant to do a pilot program at the Agency site. The Board asked for time to review this and asked for an additional business plan.

There was a discussion on bidding requirements for public agencies.

There is a leachate study pending.

The DEC permit is pending.

Tim Rose said that a Recycling Enforcement Program will soon be instituted to bring institutions into compliance.

Catherine Nilsen arrived late. There was a discussion on moving the regular meeting time to 3:30pm. It was agreed. Because of the holiday in February the next regular meeting of the UCRRA will be on Tuesday, February 21st, at 3:30pm, Agency Offices.

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

**Economic
Development
and Tourism
Committee**

Date: January 11, 2012 Start Time: 7:02 p.m. Finish Time: 8:41 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order and introduced the new members including new Legislator Ken Wishnick.

Draft Resolution #105 regarding purchase of bus route signs passed.

Draft Resolution #107 regarding the implementation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding passed.

Lance Matteson, President, Ulster County Development Corporation (UCDC) presented a report with handouts describing UCDC, Some 2011 UCDC Highlights, and UCDC Update 1.11.12, including current projects, 2012 UCDC priorities, and strategic partnerships. Mr. Matteson discussed employment, and labor and business statistics. Mr. Wishnick asked about further data on labor and business, and Mr. Matteson responded the NYS Dept. of Labor is not providing the detail of data it once did. Mr. Wishnick suggested that SUNY students could help and he emphasized the need of Ulster County to be in constant touch and communication with employers and the relocation community.

Dennis Doyle, Director Planning, gave an overview of Planning and the Planning Board, the Transportation Council, Open Space Planning, and the Housing Consortium followed by an update on tropical storms damage applications, the Main St. Program and the issues with the NYC DEP regarding flooding.

Rick Remsnyder, Director Tourism, briefed the committee on 2011 (a good year). He reviewed the announced plans to consolidate the Ulster County and City of Kingston tourism efforts. The shared services plan is intended to save taxpayers money and create enhanced tourism promotion, including a plan to relocate the county tourism office to the Rondout. Mr. Wishnick asked about coordination with the Chambers of Commerce, etc.

Bob DiBella, Director of Public Transportation, discussed UCAT annual comparisons (passengers, fares and revenue miles, mostly favorable), route evaluations and bus upgrades. Mr. Wishnick asked about what percent funding is by passengers and government (8% by farebox). Legislator Peter Loughran discussed the NYS takeover of the Department of Social Services use of transportation for their clients (considered to be an expensive policy).

Mr. Maloney named Mr. Loughran Vice Chairman of the committee.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 1/27/12

**Laws and
Rules,
Governmental
Services
Committee**

Date: January 23, 2012 Start Time: 5:40 p.m. Finish Time: 6:23 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting order, welcomed the new members, named Legislator Robert Parete as Deputy, and the minutes from the December 19, 2011 meeting were approved.

Late Draft Resolution #111 regarding adopting provisions of the "Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee" was amended and passed. Mr. Maloney discussed the provisions.

Late Draft Resolution #108 regarding amending the 2012 Ulster County Budget for foster care expenses by the Department of Social Services was referred back to committee upon recommendation of Ulster County Comptroller.

All other Late Resolutions passed, including one confirming appointment of Burton Gulnick, Jr. as Commissioner of Finance.

There followed a lengthy discussion led by Legislator Robert Parete, joined by Chairman Roberts and the other legislators, including Legislature Chairman Terry Bernardo, Legislature Minority Leader David Donaldson and Legislative Counsel Erica Guerin on the role of committees and the committee rules regarding resolutions moving thru committees. Mr. Roberts called for a review of the rules.

Further discussion focused on minority appointees and minority representation. Mr. Parete suggested a 1/3 share for minority and Mr. Donaldson called for minority representation, e.g. for deputy positions and legislative appointments.

Of immediate concern of the legislature minority is representation on the Golden Hill local development corporation (LDC) Board. The minority members (Democrat) want a representative on the board. Legislator Hector Rodriguez spoke for representation; Legislator Jeanette Provenzano is concerned about disenfranchising voters by not having a representative. There was discussion of legislative representation and possible conflicts of interest. Mr. Donaldson and Ms. Bernardo expressed their contention on the issues. Mr. Roberts called for the legislature leaders to meet with counsel on the issues.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 1/27/12

**Legislative
Programs,
Education &
Community
Services
Committee**

Date: January 10, 2012 Start Time: 5:00 p.m. Finish Time: 6:43 p.m.

Wayne Harris, Chairman, called the meeting to order, welcoming all members and guests.

Mr. Harris introduced Donald C. Katt, President of the Ulster County Community College (UCCC), for the Executive Staff of UCCC to introduce themselves to the new members of the Legislature (Legislator Craig Lopez and Legislator May Wawro). The following staff members in attendance were: Ann Marrott, Vice President & Dean of Enrollment Management; Marianne Collins, Dean of Advancement & Continuing Education; John Ganio, Dean of Academic Affairs; Jean Rose, Executive Assistant to the President & Secretary to the Board of Trustees; and Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration. Mr. Katt and each of the staff gave an overview and a briefing of their area of responsibility. Additionally, Mr. Komdat provided a financial update on topics including capital projects, contract negotiations, state funding status (now at 23% with a target of 40%, to be revisited).

Legislator Donald Gregorius asked about the new and advanced nursing program which has a new head. The status of the water project was discussed: now in a period of environmental impact evaluation and the funding may be affected by changes in Federal funding.

Lydia Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of UC, presented an overview of CCE and of staffing (some increases due to grants), programs (nutrition, relatives as parents, youth development) that are all active and growing areas. Ms. Reidy also briefed the committee on the status of the CCE location move into Kingston Plaza (due to a reduction in rental housing support by the county, but she is pleased with the new location and its opportunities).

Ms. Linda Marston-Reid, President, and Ms. Eve Madalengoitia, Director of Programs & Arts Services, representing the Dutchess County Arts Council introduced themselves (Ms. Marston-Reid is new in her position) and they discussed the DC Arts Council scope and reach (broader than Dutchess County), their capacity building grant and the Ulster County awards process (there has been concern about Ulster County not receiving credit and recognition for the awards). The committee has been pleased with the process, but it would appreciate improvements.

Mr. James Cosgrove of the Ulster County Library Association briefly addressed the committee on the scope of the association (21 libraries) and the purpose of the Infoportal.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 1/27/12

**Health and
Personnel
Committee**

The Health and Personnel Committee was convened by Chairman, Legislator Aiello at 5:15 on January 9, 2012 and adjourned at 5:58.

Present: Aiello, Belfiglio, Ronk, Parete, Rob; Provenzano

Other attendees: Chairwoman Bernardo, Deputy County Executive Crannell, and Erica Guerin, Legislative Counsel to the Committee

There was one resolution to authorize the Chairman of the UC Legislature to execute an agreement with the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services which would acquire \$332,000 (Anti-Terrorism Funds) for the county to utilize for planning, equipment, training and exercise. This would require an amendment to the county budget, but no county funds would be involved.

Following discussion, during which members noted they had questions, even though they were in favor of supporting the resolution, Legislators Provenzano and Ronk moved and seconded a motion to pass the resolution contingent on the answers to these questions being obtained. The motion was passed.

Deputy County Executive Crannell indicated that he would e-mail the committee members with the information.

Chairman Aiello then asked Legislator Provenzano to serve as the Deputy Chairman; she agreed to do this.

Following this Legislative Counsel Guerin indicated that the County Legislative Chairwoman Bernardo could join the committee at the table and advised Chairman Aiello that she could vote even though ex-officio on the resolution that had been previously passed. She voted in favor.

The remainder of the meeting, approximately 25 minutes was devoted to a discussion on the time that the committee was scheduled to meet and the process whereby department heads could be expected to attend committee meetings.

Apparently Mr. Aiello had been advised that meetings were to be scheduled at 5 or 6:30. While he did not favor 5 as such, he disliked 6:30 more, so 5 had been selected.

Since Mrs. Bernardo was present, Mr. Aiello involved her in the discussion. She noted that she has established the 5PM and 6:30 PM hours in order to meet a very "aggressive" schedule. The 5PM time apparently creates a problem for some members of the committee to the point that they find it necessary to leave their jobs early (Parete, Ronk) in order to arrive at the committee meeting on time. There was some additional discussion at the end of which Chairman Aiello said that he would think about changing the time. However, there then was additional commentary and observations from committee members including a comment from Mrs. Bernardo to try and obtain a time that works for everyone. This portion of the discussion was eventually concluded by Mr. Aiello indicating that the meeting time would henceforth

be 5:30.

As to the second topic: Chairman Bernardo advised that she had met with County Executive Hein. They had discussed how the various department heads could be made available to the Legislative Committees. She noted that he had said he would prefer that contact be made through the Deputy County Executives, who would then arrange for the department heads to appear. She further said that she had advised him that the Legislature would follow that procedure. Mr. Hein was pleased with this response according to Mrs. Bernardo. She went on to suggest that whatever questions a legislator on this committee had, then the questions should be given to the committee clerk who would then contact the DCE for the answers.

A final question was raised by Legislator Belfiglio with regard to the status of the LDC for Golden Hill and the appointments to it.

County Chairman Bernardo reviewed the resolution passed earlier in December, 2011, which is still in effect: county legislature to appoint 3 members to the Board; county executive to appoint 3; then each is to offer 3 (total of 6) for a pool of possibles from which the initial 6 Board members would select one as the 7th member of the LDC Board of Directors.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Ulster County Board of Health

Initially there was no quorum at 7 PM when the UC Board of Health was scheduled to be convened. As a consequence the minutes of the November and December meetings could not be approved, nor could the Board vote on anything.

Therefore, the Board under Board President, Dr. Tack, listened to the reports that were scheduled to be presented.

Present: Authenrieth, Hilderbrandt, Tack, Delmar (arrived later)

Absent: Stellato, Godfrey

Other Attendees: Dr. Hasbrouck, Director of UCDOH, Neredia Veytia, Patient Services; Erick Gifford, Environmental Health Services Director, and Cheryl Qamar, Deputy Commissioner of UCMH

Reports:

Dr. Hasbrouck directed attention to the floor plan at UCMH and announced that 55 members from the Flatbush building would be moving to the UCMH building at Golden Hill. This move would be accomplished in March on Fridays. The Community Services Board will also meet there. Team leaders have been asked to indicate their needs; then Buildings and Grounds and IS will perform their duties. The Board of Health will meet at the new site at Golden Hill as of 6:30 PM starting in April, 2012.

In his next report, dealing with the fact that there will be three vacancies on the Board of Health (Stellato, Godfrey, and Authenrieth (decided to do so rather than waiting until the end of the year), that the Board needs 4 replacements (Dr. MacFadden, also retired some time ago)....Dr. Hasbrouck noted that per the UC Charter: the Board shall have 7 members (2 Physicians, 1 Licensed health care professional who is not a physician, 1 member shall be selected from among three nominees submitted to the County Executive by the Mayor of Kingston. All future terms will be 5 years. If a vacancy shall occur other than by expiration term, it shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term. No member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms. He noted that the Board can only recommend possibly names for consideration; any recommendations should be sent to Katrina Kouhout for handling.

He then presented the Medical Examiner's report for 2011. He also noted that bars will be shown on graph report for suicides and motor vehicles crashes in the future.

It appeared that in August, 2011 there were 42 calls received, 21 autopsies and in May, 2011 8 site visits. There were a total of 285 calls received, 112 autopsies, and 51 site visits in the year 2011.

At this point Dr. Tack called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. MacFadden, local pediatrician and former Board member who died January 7, 2012.

Mrs. Veytia reported on the results of the audit of medical records practices for 4 clinics (communicable disease, immunizations, WIC and Tuberculosis which was performed by Provider Consulting Solutions, Inc. Such errors as were noted: errors in medical record documentation were not corrected according to established medical record standards and UC Health Department policy, the author of the medical record initialed or did not completely sign or date the note, etc. will be reviewed with staff accordingly.

Ericka Gifford covered the report of the Environmental department, reviewing the Enforcement Hearing Update and the overview of the Mobile Home Parks Work.

When Dr. Delam arrives at about 7:25, Dr. Tack called for an approval vote, there being a quorum, of the November and December minutes. Both were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Town
Supervisors**

The UC Town Supervisors meeting was convened at 8:38 AM on January 17, 2012 by President, Supervisor Valk and adjourned at 10:15. The next scheduled meeting is March 20, 2012.

Present: Towns of: Shwangunk, Rosendale, Ulster, Hurley, Shandaken, Rochester, New Paltz, Lloyd, Marletown, T/Kingston, Woodstock, Hardenburgh, Wawarsing, Saugerties.

Other attendees: County Executive Michael Hein, Chairman County Legislature Terri Bernardo, Deputy Comptroller Laura Walls

Initially, CE Hein thanked the supervisors for performing their jobs. He stressed that his intent is to reach out to all; to work together. The remainder of Mr. Hein's remarks concerned the water problem that has been created by the actions of the DEP with regards to NYC water and how it has effected various parts of UC and the people of UC. There will be a meeting Monday, January 23 at UCCC at 6PM at the Quimby Theatre. Metro NYC DEP and UC personnel will be present. He urged people to attend to voice their concerns. He believes it will be a long process to get the problem(s) resolved.

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers of the Association for the 2012 year. Under the Association's By-Laws the oldest serving supervisor conducts the elections. Supervisor Leifeld of Olive hold that distinction, but since he was not present, Supervisor Bellows of Hurley was asked to handle the elections.

Those elected:

John Valk, Shwangunk-President

Carl Chipman, Rochester-First Vice-President

James Quigley, Ulster-Second Vice-President

Bert Leifeld, Olive-Treasurer

Jeremy Wilber-Woodstock-Secretary

Mr. Valk Briefly described what the Association does: meets 3rd Tuesday each month, except for February and August; the group shares problems and concerns; do not get involved in other towns politics unless asked to do so.

The third item on the agenda was a presentation and a Q & A with the tow Elections Commissioners of UC: Thomas Turco (R) and Victor Work (D). Their presentation concerned the special election that the T/Lloyd, Marlboro, and Shwangunk would have as a result of Assemblyman Kirwan's recent death; the concerns about the primaries and the possibility of a dual primary and which political division would bear the costs: county or towns.

During the discussion on the question of the dual primary, Supervisor Zimet moved and Supervisor Chipman seconded a motion that if there has to be a dual primary that the state pick up the cost and that the Association support this. The motion was passed. Copies will be sent to representative of the NYS Assembly and Senate.

There were a variety of comments offered regarding the reaction of local constituents to the voting process concerning the new machines, the lack of privacy, and the confusion over the changes that have taken place where voters actually go to cast their votes; as well as the negative reaction of voters when learning what the costs are that are involved...all tax payer dollars.

In response the commissioners noted that others have expressed similar concerns but the federal government has stated that this is the system that will be used for voting; that the local Board of Elections has tried to set up privacy areas; shown the local election personnel how it is done. Further Mr. Turco noted that if a voter has a problem when voting, i.e. "no privacy", the voter should call the Board of Elections and it will "straighten out the people at the voting site."

With regard to the actual location of the voting sites Mr. Turco noted that this type of situation occurs every 10 years when the census is taken and changes occur which sometimes can cause confusion.

The concern about voting machines was raised. The voting machines are under a five year warranty. It may be that problems may occur with the machines that are not covered under the warranty. The cost to fix the machines will be billed back to the towns.

The old voting machines belong to the county and are stored at the old county jail. The Board of Elections has no means to pick up those which a town may still have. If there is a county vehicle in the area, then the machine can be picked up at no charge to the town; otherwise the town would have to pay for the pickup.

When the school districts which are still able to use the old machines, come on board with the new machines, the latter are machines from the Board of Elections which must be used and the school districts must pay for such.

Mr. Valk then introduced Terri Bernardo, Chairman of the UC Legislature.

Initially, she noted she had three main items to mention.

- She asked whether the group had read the article on the agreement between county and the city of Kingston for the former to take over handling the latter's tourism program. City would pay county \$30,000 to handle the program, plus \$15,000 for the real estate that would be turned over

to the county. However, the employee who handled the program for the city would be absorbed into the county payroll @\$70,000. This would be a net loss of \$25,000 to the county. Further, Mrs. Bernardo stated that the county legislature is the only body that can enter into such a shared services agreement. She wanted to know how the towns felt about this and requested that they call her with any observations.

- Flood Assessment Relief Act passed by the state provides for possible relief on assessments if there was more than 50% damage to a home. Mrs. Bernardo wanted to know what the group's thinking was. Given the comments, it appears that some of the towns have adopted this process; others have it on their agenda to consider.
- The LDC for Golden Hill. Mrs. Bernardo stated that she urged both legislative caucuses to select members for the Board of Directors who have background in the areas of health care, finance, business development, etc. She noted that Comptroller Auerbach had visited with her and recommended that non-legislative people be considered and appointed to the LDC Board, a position supported by the State Comptroller. She felt her prior statement to the caucuses indicated the county legislature's intent to follow his recommendation.

She asked the towns to advise their residents to submit names/resumes of people who are interested to her.

Other items she commented on: she supports having an itemized tax bill; not a proponent of mandates; and she will hold public hearings with regards to the water concerns involving the DEP/DEC. In the latter instance she noted again that the county legislature has power to subpoena and take testimony. Mrs. Bernard stated that UC Legislature has never used this power. Further, apparently the County Executive had indicated a willingness to work together.

Under other business: the group voted to have \$50 per year as annual dues. Mr. Valk noted that there is a position on the UCDC Board for the President of the Association. As he can't make those meetings he has asked Supervisor Quigley to represent the Association.

There will be no Association meeting in February unless there is an emergency situation to deal with.

As a final comment, Supervisor Valk observed that the Association and City of Kingston need to work together.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

LWVMHR Holiday party held at the home of Margaret Sellers and Vic Melville.

An enjoyable time was had by the many people who attended.



**L-R. Patty Bittner with board members
Anne Needham and Esther Stickley**

MEET ONE OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

One of the eighteen people who have joined the League this past year (or rejoined after a significant absence) is CYNTHIA LOWE, who has lived in Kingston for more than 25 years but joined for the first time last summer.

She is currently the chair of the Ulster County Charter Revision Commission and says, "I got interested in and respectful of the League because of its input into the Reapportionment Commission, which I served on with Dare Thompson. I wouldn't have even been interested in serving on the charter revision commission if I hadn't been through the reapportionment process."

She notes that "in what's left over of my time I chair the HealthAlliance (Kingston and Benedictine Hospitals and more), which I do because I care that we have quality health care in Ulster but also because they are largest employer in Ulster County."

Until recently Cynthia was a full-time member of the local work force. She is a Certified Public Accountant and was a practicing accountant in Kingston for ten years. From late 2007 to mid 2011 she was the Vice President - Ulster for the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and before that she was a member of the senior management of a community bank in Orange County.

On a personal level she adds: "I've been married for more than thirty years (to Glenn Sutherland, president and CEO of Catskill Hudson Bank) and we try to get our passport stamped at least once a year."

Welcome, Cynthia! You are great addition to our League and to the work we do.

LOCAL, STATE and NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP EFFORT (MLD) is WORKING!

First it had the acronym MRI (for Membership Recruitment Initiative, not a medical procedure) but now MLD is what we call the coach-based effort by all levels of the League to strengthen what we collectively do. It stands for Membership and Leadership Development, and it's really working, including right here in our league.

"Been there, done that," is the most common reason many leagues gave for not signing up right away to participate, but as someone who's been an LWV leader for four (aack!) decades and in four states, I can truly say this is something new. New but wonderfully simple. We are simply communicating more, cheering each other on, and reminding ourselves and one another of the things we KNOW we should do but too often get too busy to remember. What's new is the very personal touch and the accountability that it creates.

The MLD program is very circular and seemed a bit overwhelming and confusing at first. I am an MLD coach to a league in western NY. I also coordinate New York's four other MLD coaches who coach 7 other NY leagues. We have a national coach (Eileen Olmsted from Pittsburgh) with whom we (NY coaches) all have a phone conference once a month during which a member of LWVUS membership staff or a long-time national volunteer often listens in. About a week after the national coaches talk with their state coaches they have a phone conference with one another and LWVUS membership staff and share successes, concerns, trends, etc. The following month they often share what they learned with us.*

Meanwhile our league participates in MLD and has its own coach, Maggie Moehringer from Albany (former LWVNYS Voter Service chair), who sees us with fresh eyes and phone-coaches our MLD team - Dorothy Winrow and Esther Stickley. Dorothy and Esther in turn report to our Resource Development Committee and to the board and remind us to do the things we know we should!

And somehow this ISN'T overwhelming and confusing at all. It just feels good. Yes, LWV how-to documents on paper and online help, but there's nothing like one-on-one support.

And the best news of all, locally, is that our membership is up by 7%. Of course we always lose some members each year, but this past year we gained over 50% more than we lost.

GO TEAM! - and many thanks to Eileen, Maggie, Dorothy, Esther and to all the MLD elves at LWVNYS and LWVUS!

**National coaches are Ruth Shur Fellows, made possible by the generosity and devotion of Walter Shur, husband of the late Ruth Shur, a long-time Leaguer from Port Washington, NY and (more recently) North Carolina. But that's another great story....*

Dare Thompson