



Commentator

FEBRUARY 2013

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

2013		
JANUARY		
30	5:30 pm	Dutchess County Executive, Marcus Molinaro, delivers State of the County address at Bardavon, Poughkeepsie. Call 486-2000 to attend or go to http://www.dutchessny.gov/rsvp .
30	7 pm	Dutchess County Legislature meets in a special session to vote on the new legislative districts. Proposed RESOLUTION: http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/ConCalAtt/2/PDF%202013030.pdf Proposed MAP: http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/ConCalAtt/2/CLproposedmap2010.pdf
31	6:30 pm	Ulster County Executive, Michael Hein, delivers State of the County address at SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge. Call 340-3800 to attend. The Address will be broadcast live on the front page of the County's website, at www.UlsterCountyNY.gov .
FEBRUARY		
5	Starts 10:30 Am	LWV Lobby Day in Albany. Learn about the LWV and the inner workings of Albany from LWVNYS specialists. New and prospective members welcome! Call 845-340-2003 (LWVMHR) to meet us at the New Paltz (9 AM) or Kingston (9:15) Thruway exits to join our contingent. Call 518-465-4162 (LWVNYS) NOW to reserve your place in Albany Call either LWVNYS or LWVMHR for further details. There is no fee to attend this event.
5	Tues. 7:15	LWV MHR Board Meeting, home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989. Call 845-340-2003 to confirm date and location.
12	Tues. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee, Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, packback56@yahoo.com
16	10:30 am	Campaign Finance Reform in New York State. A presentation from LWVNYS with Laura Ladd Bierman, LWVNYS Executive Director. Town of Esopus Town Hall, 284 Broadway (Rt 9W), Port Ewen. There is no fee to attend this event.

For updates, check our Calendar on-line at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>

Prez Sez...**PREZ SEZ**

The new year is well underway and now that the holiday fog has cleared, you can see that we've really gotten down to business. We're also providing lots of opportunities for you to get the inside scoop on what's going on locally and at the state level.

If you get this Commentator in time, you can try to attend your County Executive's **State of the County** address (see Calendar), but do call ahead to get your name on the list and make sure there's still room. So many of the issues are the same on both sides of the Hudson, so it's interesting to compare how each county addresses them. For example, our Solid Waste study committee is currently reviewing both counties' Local Solid Waste Management Plans which are (or soon will be) open to public comment and must ultimately get state approval.

Redistricting is an issue where the counties have taken very different paths. Ulster now has a process for redrawing legislative lines using an independent commission. Dutchess will be voting on January 30 on lines that were drawn almost entirely by legislators from one party. It has been very discouraging to me to see how little public attention at meetings or in the press has been given to this critical process at a time when virtually everyone is now recognizing that decades of gerrymandering is the number one reason that we have such polarization in the US House of Representatives. It would be great to see more regular Dutchess folks present on the 30th to let their concerns be known.

Bottom line: **VOTERS should be picking their representatives, not the other way around.** If we don't keep telling them this both in meetings and at the ballot box, why should we expect politicians to give up freely such an effective means for keeping their party in power?

Keep an eye on the state Capitol for details on a Constitutional amendment that supposedly addresses this issue for state and US House races. The LWV and Citizens Union of NYC are for the amendment; Common Cause says no way. Find out more at Lobby Day on February 5th or when Laura Bierman and Barb Bartoletti are here with us on February 16 and March 23.

We get the government we work for and we sure do have our work cut out for us!

Dare

VOTER SERVICE

**Congressman
Chris Gibson
- Meeting
with LWV
members:
Dare
Thompson,
Margaret
Sellers, Anne
Needham
January 10,
2013**

Chris Gibson, newly re-elected congressman for the 19th (formerly 20th) Congressional District appeared relaxed and confident during a recent meeting with members of the League of Women Voters. But pleased as he is with his November success, he does not wish to get too comfortable in this job. Gibson said that while he understands experience is important, he believes that the government needs a fresh look regularly. So, happy as he is with this job, he will, assuming he continues to be re-elected, serve just four terms.

In the meantime, Gibson has a mileage-intensive district to cover and has several offices throughout. His new Kingston office is located at Seven21 Media Center on Broadway, chosen because he wants to support Mayor Gallo's plan for a new police headquarters nearby and a renewal of the midtown area. The smartly decorated Media Center – a Broadway asset – has a main floor conference room for those who need handicapped accessible space. (It's advisable to notify the 2nd floor office staff that this room will be needed.)

Gibson serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the Armed Services Committee. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Gibson said that he is concerned about both delays in passage on the farm bill and the lack of continuity of policy. He said he fights for New York farmers, the constituents who own the small and mid-sized farms in his largely rural district. He spoke about the need for reasonable milk pricing in order to sustain family dairy farms.

Gibson, an Army veteran, states that his knowledge gained from being on the House Armed Services Committee has convinced him that the upcoming sequestration will take a dangerous axe to the defense budget. He wants defense priorities to be addressed and costs reduced. But he said

it must be done in a thoughtful and appropriate way.

As a Republican, he has given considerable thought on the party's policy on the national debt. Gibson said that Medicare and Medicaid as well as Social Security need to be fixed in a sensible fashion so that people who are paying into it now can collect. On the debt ceiling, he noted that even if we manage to get a balanced budget in five years, Congress will be embroiled in at least five more debt ceiling battles.

He considers that gerrymandering (which now can't be fixed until the next census in 2020) has led to districts that are so locked in that legislators only worry about the next primary. In other words, they serve their base rather than the public at large or the well-being of the country. He suggested that the League not give up on addressing this issue.

Gibson said he does not believe that banning military type assault weapons or magazines will make for safer communities. He agreed that society needs to look into ways to protect children and communities but did not elaborate other than mention possible improvements to the mental health system.

During the hour-long conversation, the congressman and LWV members discussed having quarterly meetings to continue dealing with salient issues.

Congressman Gibson, who is married with three children, grew up in Kinderhook, graduated from Siena College, and earned his MPA and PhD from Cornell University. A Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, and Bronze Star recipient, his 24 years and seven deployments in the US Army included Iraq and a West Point teaching assignment. He is active in several civic organizations including the American Legion, VFW, NRA, the Knights of Columbus and St. John's Church of Valatie.

Anne Needham

Moderating Guidelines

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

Member Cindy Lanzetta, one of our stalwart advocates on environmental issues, has been appointed by the Ulster County Executive as the county's representative on the DEC's Region 3 Committee to update the State's Open Space Plan.

The revision process includes developing a regional report that includes recommended priority project areas as well as policy recommendations that help to conserve open space. The committee will be meeting over the next 6 months. We look forward to news of Cindy's accomplishments

PROGRAM NEWS

LOBBY DAY on FEBRUARY 5th

See the calendar for how to register and get to the League's Lobby Day on Tuesday, February 5, and plan to join us. Our various LWV specialists in a wide variety of issues will bring you up to date on many League issues that are "hot" in Albany this spring including the Women's Equality Agenda, redistricting, campaign finance, hydrofracking, voting, education, and healthcare.

We'll visit committee meetings, see the Assembly and Senate in action (if we're lucky), and talk with our own legislators.

Let us know right away that you're interested in going so we can be sure to set up an appointment with YOUR assemblyperson or senator.

Notice that you can hitch a ride with others at either the New Paltz or Kingston Thruway exits, but you need to request it.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM in NEW YORK

On Saturday, February 16, 10:30 am, you not only get to hear how corrupt the financing of

elections is in our fair state, but you also get to meet our LWNYS's dedicated and savvy executive director, **Laura Ladd Bierman**, a member of the Albany County LWV. Laura will present a very helpful LWV-developed PowerPoint presentation on this complicated and frustrating issue and we'll learn how we might actually take back our government from those who've been doing a good job of buying it.

We'll meet at the Esopus Town Hall on Broadway (Rt 9W) in Port Ewen. It's on the west side of 9W, just a little north of BOCES on the opposite side.

Call the League cell phone, 340-2003, for further details - or if you get lost!

Barbara Bartoletti's BLOG

Even if you plan to attend both events above, you'll still want to read Barbara's weekly take on the doings at the Capitol. Log onto <http://lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/> and find out what she and our ever-entertaining government are up to. We're grateful that Barbara's well-known and petite-but-powerful presence there helps keep them in line and makes the League's views loud and clear to them and the media.

COMING IN MARCH

Mid-Hudson AGRICULTURE: Growing our Economy and our Communities Friday, March 1, 8 am - 2 pm

Multi-Purpose Room, Student Union Building, SUNY New Paltz

This conference is for farmers, policy makers, community leaders and interested citizens who want to nurture farms in the region, create local distribution and markets for farmers, and help get healthy, local food to Mid-Hudson residents, including the 15% whose basic nutritional needs are not being met. Sponsors are SUNY New Paltz Center for Research, Regional Education, and Outreach (CRREO), SUNY New Paltz College Auxiliary Services, Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Corporation, UlsterCorps, and **LWVMHR**.

Since a review of our LWVUS position on Agriculture was voted in at last spring's Convention (to be completed by next spring), we are particularly eager to have LWV members attend. A study committee will be forming soon, and this will help prepare us all. The LWVUS position was adopted in 1988 so much updating is needed!

Watch the CRREO website (<http://www.newpaltz.edu/crreo>) and ours for more information on the conference, including topics, speakers, how to register, and what the fee will be.

LWNYS's esteemed Barbara Bartoletti reviews LWNYS positions and issues that we and Albany are focused on right now. Saturday, March 23, 10:30 am, location TBA.

What are the issues the League has developed a special concern for, and expertise in, over the years? Where are our potential victories and likely defeats right now? Who sorts this out and how? (Sometimes it's US!) Barbara will entertain us with stories from her 3 decades as our LWNYS Legislative Director while clearing up many questions we might have. She'll also help us see how we can support what she and others are doing at the state level for our League.

ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dutchess County Shared Services Study

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

Jail Fact Sheet Version 4-1

Highway Departments in Ulster County

Fire Districts in Dutchess County

Purchasing in Dutchess County Municipalities

Justice Courts in Ulster County

Bus Transportation

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

Ulster & Dutchess Counties Solid Waste

The Committee met on January 15th at the Gateway Diner in Highland. We discussed the status of the Governor's Regional Sustainability Plan and vowed to continue to monitor its implementation. We also discussed the status of solid waste management in Ulster and Dutchess Counties. We planned to set up a meeting with Dutchess County Solid Waste Director, Lindsay Carille, for March.

Since this committee meeting, Dutchess County has released its Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) for public comment.

www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/SolidWasteMgmt/SWindex.htm.

We also foiled for and received the draft LSWMP for Ulster County. We are reviewing that, as well.

Member Susan Holland maintains a calendar of upcoming events of interest to our Committee:

Tues., 1/29, send your comments on the Dutchess County Local Solid Waste Management Plan (DC LSWMP) to this group by today.

Wed., 1/30, 6:30 PM, Ulster County Environmental Management Council, Howard St. John Conference Room, SUNY Ulster, 491 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge Thurs., 2/7, 5:45 PM, Environment, Energy, & Technology Committee Meeting, 6th Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston

Tues., 2/12, 5:30 PM, LWV MHR Solid Waste Study Committee, Gateway Diner, 3579 Route 9W, Highland

Tues., 2/19, 7 PM, Ulster County Legislature Monthly Meeting, 6th Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston

Tues., 2/26, 7 PM, Public meeting on the Dutchess Co. Local Solid Waste Management Plan, Farm and Home Center, 2715, Route 44, Millbrook (snow date: 2/28)

The next regular meeting of the Solid Waste Committee is **February 12th, 5:30 PM**, Gateway Diner, 3579 Route 9W, Highland. (See LWV calendar.)

Cindy Lanzetta

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

Environmental Energy & Technology Committee

Meeting: 1/10/13; The whole committee was present. Ken Ronk was in and out because of other commitments, but was part of all discussions.

Tracy Bartels asked that the minutes of the November 29 meeting not be approved until she has had an opportunity to verify one item.

The Late resolution confirming appointments to UCRRA was passed with Wishnick opposed because of process concerns and Bartels abstaining. There was discussion of the fact that late resolutions go straight to the Laws and Rules Committee without going through the appropriate legislative committee first and that this undermines committee control of actions. Ken Ronk says that the rules are being changed. The committee will continue to monitor this.

Tim Rose, the RRA Executive Director, gave a status report. The Flow Control local law has not yet been filed. Tipping fees for January will remain unchanged, and in February fees for towns will be \$90, \$80 for Kingston City and \$100 for all others. Towns have been notified that their fees will not change, and haulers will be notified February 1. There will be a mass mailing with applications and explanations when the law is filed and a schedule of fines will be set.

A meeting on 12/4 at 6PM was announced on 12/4 at 5:57. There is a question about the legality of this short notice and counsel will be sought from the attorneys.

The question of a 3-tier fee structure versus a single fee was discussed with Bartels and Parete both advocating a single fee.

DEC is still reviewing the Solid Waste Management plan, which will need some updating for flow control. Perhaps the possibility of a future landfill site should be added to the draft.

A resolution needs to be written defining the oversight of the RRA and the makeup of the Board. A proposal that the board be made up of 2 legislators (1 majority, 1 minority), 5 legislative appointees not elected officials (3 appointed by the majority, 2 by the minority) and 2 town supervisors.

Members are to consider this proposal and discuss it by e-mail prior to an in-depth discussion and resolution at a special meeting 1/23/13 at 6:00 PM.

Adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Lee Ridgway, reporting

**Legislative
Programs,
Education &
Community
Services**

LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region Observer Corps

LWV Observer: Vic Melville

Ulster County Legislature: Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee, held at UCCC St. John Conference Room, George Clinton Hall

Date: Jan. 9, 2013 Start Time: 5:06 p.m. Finish Time: 5:55 p.m.

Chairman Wayne Harris called the meeting to order, attendance taken and the meeting minutes of Nov. 27, 2012, were adopted.

Draft Resolution No. 0121 appointing a legislative representative to the Ulster County Cooperative Extension Board (Wayne Harris), was adopted.

Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College, reviewed the current status of several topics and issues:

- special events – a new brochure, a professional open house, a high school event;
- enrollment – spring at 85%, summer begun;
- charge back for enrollments for students going to other colleges – this has become a big issue, particularly with Dutchess Community College. Deputy Chair David Donaldson suggested sending a questionnaire to students asking why they chose not to attend UCCC. This topic and related issues will be discussed further with the possibility of a resolution;
- the sale of the president's house is pending repairs, etc.;
- the Sophie Finn project (S.T.R.I.V.E) is progressing;
- and the proposed solar farm, water project and a moisture problem with the Senate Gym floor were discussed.

Lee Reidy, Executive Director, and Mary Marsters, Director of Programs, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, discussed their programs and funding:

- the annual meeting was a success;
- the coordination of livestock and 4-H programs;
- shared services for programs between counties in the region, and staff rebalancing;
- and grants being awarded.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 1/25/13

**Economic
Development
and Tourism
Committee**

Date: Dec. 17, 2012 Start Time: 6:00 p.m. Finish Time: 7:13 p.m.

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

[audio recording]

The Oct. 31, 2012, meeting minutes were approved.

The Proposed Draft Resolution No. 308 authorizing the chair of the county legislature to call a public hearing regarding the 8-year Review of Ulster County Agriculture District No. 1 – Department of Planning was adopted

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 319 recommending appointments to the Community Advisory Panel of the Olympic Regional Development Authority was adopted.

Proposed Resolution No. 320 authorizing the chairman of the county legislature to execute an agreement with the Ulster County Development Corporation for specific Solar Consortium Related Services – 2012 Appropriation was adopted following a committee discussion.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 321 authorizing the chairman of county to apply for and accept federal and state funding regarding purchasing two diesel buses for Fiscal Year 2014 was adopted following a discussion by Robert DiBella, Director of Public Transportation.

**Legislative
Health and
Personnel
Committee**

Ricks Remsnyder, Director Tourism, Tony Morino, Focus Media, Inc., and Lisa Berger, Director of Marketing & Group Sales presented a review of 2012 programs and activities. 2012 was a successful year of good responses to the outreach efforts and the revenues were up. Legislator Ken Wishnick asked about the latest trends in tourism: people are making shorter trips, which is good for Ulster County.

Dennis Doyle, Director Planning and March Gallagher, Deputy Director Planning introduced a presentation of the Strategic Planning Process lead by Peter Fairweather, the consultant. Mr. Fairweather discussed the Shovel Ready and Ready to Go programs, processes and funding, and the kinds of projects and tools being used, and he emphasized the need for a coordinated planning process. There was a discussion about site selection techniques and criteria. Mr. Doyle briefly discussed the sustainability study in the region and commented on landfills (no new landfills for many years).

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 1/25/13

The Committee was convened on December 11, 2012 at 5:32 by chairman, Legislator Robert Aiello and adjourned at 6:15.

Present: Aiello, Provenzano, Belfiglio, Rob Parete

Absent: Ronk

Other attendees: Erica Guerin, Legislative counsel; Fawn Tantillo, acting secretary to the committee

Following the approval of the minutes for the November meeting, the committee moved on to Resolution 318: Establishing Reporting of the standard work day for appointed officials:

This is an addition to the original resolution passed earlier in 2012. This one covers those who are appointed officials who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Established standard day for the purpose of reporting the days worked to the NYS & Local Employees' Retirement System.

Passed.

The next topic to be raised dealt with personnel and apparently stemmed from the idea that there would be any number of changes involving county employees in the coming year.

A variety of suggestions were made from developing a resolution to obtain information from the Personnel Department to sending a letter to the Personnel Director asking for the information: numbers, whether retired, let go, fired, amounts of money involved, where the individuals went, etc.

It was noted in the course of the discussion that county employees are civil service employees..

If one is interested in a county job, finding out what civil service exam or exams are coming up, finding out whether qualified to take, etc. is the initial part of the process. To secure a job if a vacancy exists one must have taken the exam, be placed in the top three potential people to be considered.

Additionally, it was suggested that Brenda Bartholomew, the Personnel Director, be asked to attend a committee meeting so the members could ask her about the numbers. A letter will be sent to DCE Crannell to ask about Ms. Bartholomew coming to a committee meeting. The point to this was to have her present to clarify the rules regarding hiring, separation, firing, etc. as well as if they left county employment where did they go.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Committee was convened at 5:30 on January 7, 2013 by Chairman, Legislator Aiello.

Members present: Aiello, Provenzano, Ronk, Parete, Rob; Belfiglio

Other attendees: DCE Crannell, UC Legislature Chairman Bernardo, J.J. Hanson, Christa Barringer, Brenda Bartholomew, Erica Guerin

Following the approval of the minutes of the December 11, 2012 meeting the first order of business dealt with the background for inviting Brenda Bartholomew, Director of Personnel to the

meeting. This had been accomplished by DCE Crannell, who has oversight of that area, inviting her to do so.

Resolution 0123 regarding information regarding county employees was the original basis for this discussion involving personnel. Legislators Aiello/Provenzano had previously expressed themselves and felt very strongly that the resolution was not necessary in order to acquire the information that was desired. Instead it had been felt that a letter to Personnel Director inviting her to attend the committee meeting and provide the information would be enough.

There was considerable negative commentary between Chairman Aiello and committee member Legislator Belfiglio, becoming very intense at some points, during the remaining time that this observer was present at the meeting. Chairman Aiello again stated that this information does not require a resolution in order to obtain it. Ms. Bartholomew was asked if what the committee wanted could be done. A request for personnel information would be made by the committee and be sent through proper channels, and DCE Crannell would have answers provided.

Chairman Bernardo suggested that they find out whether the information desired could be provided from Ms. Bartholomew and do so monthly for a few months and if that worked, then reconsider utilizing a resolution.

Ms. Bartholomew was then asked again if what the committee was looking for in the resolution can be provided. She reviewed what is required in resolution, said it can be provided, and noted that some information regarding employees may be privacy related personnel matters. She suggested she attend meetings quarterly and advise committee on the various terminology and acronyms, etc. that is used.

At this point there seemed to be a difference of understanding as to what had been decided. There was a heated exchange between Chairman Aiello and Legislator Belfiglio. Eventually Legislator Ronk proposed that the resolution discussion be tabled and brought up at the next month's meeting pending Ms. Bartholomew's first report. Motion Passed.

Prior to this observer leaving at 6:30, there were Q & A referencing Golden Hill and how the work is progressing.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

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

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

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

Absent: Dr. Iannuzzi

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

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The board meeting was convened by Chairman Dare Thompson on 12-19-12 at 4:44 and moved to executive session at 4:52.

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

Absent: Dr. Iannuzzi

Other Attendees: DCE Ken Crannell, Justin Miller, general counsel to the GHLDC, Amy Border, secretary to the GHLDC, Clinton Johnson, First Asst. Co. Att., and media

The first order of business, once the meeting was convened, was the approval of the minutes of the November 30, 2012 meeting.

While the next item on the agenda dealt with a resolution to authorize payments with respects to the sale of the county nursing home, the group decided to delay such until other matters, which were to be taken up in executive session, had been addressed.

However, the chair asked if there was any other business or comment at that point; noting that there were LDC members present who might comment on how recent proceedings with members

of the staff at the nursing home had been handled as well as the resident council.

DCE Crannell, Legislator Provenzano, and DCE Sudlow each provided very positive comments: - following the announcement of the sale members and representatives of the buyer had met with the nursing home administrator, the resident council (this was a very lengthy meeting), department heads, employees and members of the family council. Discussion with CSEA has also been part of this initial period;

-DCE Crannell indicated he was impressed with how the buyer's representatives dealt with the personnel and the residents; has had nothing but positive feed- back from those who were involved;

-Legislator Provenzano noted that she knows people who have family members who reside at the facility and they are optimistic about the positive things that could be done for the residents by the buyer;

-it was felt that Dr. Bacchi did an excellent job when talking with the residents;

-it was noted that Dr. Bacchi talked extensively and for a lengthy period of time with Ken Hyatt, a resident and the president of the resident council.

DCE Crannell noted that on January 11,2013 representatives of the GHLDC and the buyer will meet with the full facility wide staff at early morning, mid-morning and afternoon shifts to ensure that all those working throughout the day will be met and have the opportunity to receive information as well as raise questions.

Mr. Hanson also reminded the members that if they had not completed their training they needed to do so. (Note: Every board member of a Public Authority, which the GHLDC is, must participate in such training. This training involves the explanation to participants on what a public authority in NYS is among other things, what the role of the member is, as well as what the role of the members is between the public authority budget office and the local public authority is.

At 4:52 the group moved into executive session at which time the group was to discuss the disposition of the real estate that is involved.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

UC Board of Health

The meeting was convened on December 10, 2012 at 7:05 by President, Dr. Mark Tack and adjourned at 7:26.

Present: Authenreith, Hilderbrandt, Tack, Graham, Delma

Absent: Woodley

Other attendees: Commissioner of Health Dr. Smith, Nereida Veytia, Director of Patient Services, Katrina Kouhout, Secretary to the Commissioner of Health

The first order of business was the approval of the October and November minutes of the Board.

Under new business the schedule of board meetings for 2013 was approved by the board.

The Commissioner's report dealt with the status of board members. This meeting is Joan Authenreith's last meeting. In addition it was noted that there are two other vacancies on the board. Contact will be made with the office of the county executive to obtain clarification of this matter as it falls under the charter.

The board accepted the Medical Examiner's report. It was noted that there were 30 calls received; 7 site visits were made; 10 autopsies were performed; there were 3 suicides; there were no motor vehicle related deaths and no homicides.

The Director of Patient Services Nereida Veytia noted the following:

-under Provider solutions: under the Article 28 review: an outside auditor was employed to perform the audit which involved a review of various patient records; done at the end of November; involved about 33-35 patient records; the auditor also evaluated the electronic records utilized by the Health Department. Some of the state forms which were "embedded" in the records being audited did not show patient names on the forms used by the state. While the other records were apparently deemed in order, the state forms can not be changed so the local department is adding lines so signatures can be added until such time as the state makes the changes in its forms.

-clinical documents were found to be in order;

-confidentiality of patients was maintained

The department still has flu vaccine available so it will be used in areas like Queen's Gallery and other soup kitchens to reach the population that those facilities service.

Apparently every county in NYS has flu cases except for 4, names were not given.

The department has received approval to hire a RN to work with WIC (Women, Infants and Children).

Dr. Smith indicated there were no surprises for the department in the county budget allocations. The department has just received approval to post the opening for the environmental coordinator. DSS also needs a physician for over sight purposes to approve those cases indicating medical necessity for 24 hour care in the client's home for such cases as DSS is likely to have.

There is still a delay on final approval of the Sanitary Code. Apparently the incorrect effective date had been found in the code, so the department had to redo the process and no the state must review and approve.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

There was no quorum for the UC Board of Health meeting that was scheduled for January 14, 2013. As a result there was no official meeting. Instead the group listened to reports starting at about 7:15. This reporting session ended at 8PM.

Those members of the board who were present were Dr. Delmar, Dr. Woodley, Mrs. Hilderbrandt.

Other attendees were Mrs. Veytia, Patient Services, Dr. Heller, Medical Examiner, Donna Greenfield, Lead Poisoning Coordinator and Katrina Kouhout, secretary to the Commissioner, Dr. Smith.

Since this was not an official meeting the following items will need to be addressed at the next official meeting: minutes from December, 2012, new board members, elections, and voting.

The first report that the group heard was presented by Donna Greenfield, dealing Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program. Some points there were presented: lead is primary hazard for children;

Lead is used in paint and some children's toys; while banned prior to 1978 in other parts of the world, such was not banned in US until 1978; today, focus to deal with problem is therefore on structures build prior to 1978 in US; opening/closing windows installed prior to 1978 are part of the focus; recommend washing hands prior to coming in from playing in soil which can have lead particles in it; about 442,000 children in US between age 1-5 have elevated blood lead level; good nutrition can help reduce problem in children; lead attacks the central nervous system; can effect a child's IQ. Exposure to lead can be checked by washing hands, choose lead free housing; choose houses with easily replaced windows.

The local Department of Health has applied for a HUD grant, valued at about \$2 million. To be used when Board of Health cites a landlord for lead problems: bring the dollars and the landlord together to correct the problem. City of Kingston and RUPCO are supportive and involved in this initiative.

Dr. Heller presented the following information re: the office of the Medical Examiner: For 2012 290 calls were received (up from 285 in 2011); 87 site visits; 109 autopsies; 22 suicides; 4 cases involved motor vehicles; and there was 1 homicide. Averaged 24 calls per month in 2012, 7 site visits, 9 autopsies; 2 suicides, 1 motor vehicle involvement per quarter; and 1 homicide for the year, 2012.

Mrs. Veytia provided the patient services report which dealt primarily with a flu update:

As of 1-13-13 Governor Cuomo issued an executive order which allows pharmacists to administer the flu vaccinations for those 6 months to 18 years old. She indicated that flu vaccines is available in Ulster County. During December the Health Department did reach out to the special

needs population: WIC, soup kitchens like Queen's Galley, Family of Woodstock to provide flu vaccinations.

She noted that as of this date there are 19,000 flu cases in NYS with 2 infant deaths; and 107 flu cases confirmed in Ulster County.

Presently the UC Department of Health is working on Community Health Assessment to be done by November, 2013 (the last one done in 2010): "to understand our community"; a Community Health Improvement Plan: state expects to have such: areas of study for Ulster County: chronic disease, i.e. obesity; and substance abuse and its effect on suicide; and Community Service Plan to be done by Hospital Alliance group to cooperate and work together.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Ulster County Town Supervisors

The January 15, 2013 meeting of the UC Town Supervisors was convened at 8:35 by Vice-President Chipman, T/Supervisor T/Rochester and adjourned at 9:22. There is no February meeting therefore the next meeting will be March 19.

Present: Olive, Rochester, T/Kingston, Marletown, Hurley, Ulster, Woodstock, New Paltz, Wawarsing.

Other Attendees: UC Legislative Chairman Bernardo, Fawn Tantillo, Laura Petite, N. Paltz Recycling Coordinator, Adele Reiter, Chief of Staff to County Executive Michael Hein.

Initially Mr. Hein was invited to speak; his remarks were devoted to the need for the towns and county to work together, saying it is an obligation. A booklet devoted to UC sustainability initiatives, environmental executive orders, laws, resolutions, and procedures from the Department of Environment was distributed. He emphasized that the county departments work for the towns not for him. The county department has been set up like a wheel with Amanda LaValle, Environmental Coordinator at the center. This will make it easier to acquire such information that the other county departments may have for use in this area.

A new solid waste program is needed Mr. Hein stated as the present one is broken. He spoke very highly of Coordinator LaValle noting her cooperativeness and non-partisan stance.

Wawarsing T/Supervisor spoke about the rail trails being developed in T/Wawarsing and was highly complementary re Mr. Hein's contributions.

Next on the agenda, Terry Bernardo, Chairman UC Legislature. She asked if anyone had questions. Since the group was interested in recycling, the relevant resolution recently passed by the county legislature became the basis for discussion. At the request of the group, Mr. Chipman will write a letter to Legislator Tracy Bartels, requesting clarification on the matters of recycling and flow control, which she is supporting.

Following a brief discussion, the group discussed passing a renewal of membership in Pattern for Progress. Following discussion the group voted to table the motion to renew its membership. In the interim, Pattern for Progress will be invited to advise the group what its programs are, how it can assist

T/Supervisors and its plans for the coming year.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Elections were held with the following results: President, Carl Chipman; First VP, James Quigley, Second VP, John Valk, Secretary, Jean Walsh, Treasurer, Bert Leifield

Treasurer reported \$6,502.34.

In general comment period concerns expressed by members on how deliveries of fuel under the HEAP program, handled by UCDSS, to those in need. Several negative situations were noted. Generally group felt it would communicate with County Executive Hein on this matter.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp