



Commentator

JUNE 2011

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		
2011		
JUNE		
5	1:00 – 4:00 pm	Annual Luncheon at Wiltwyck Golf Club, Kingston. <i>See details in Program News</i>
7	7:45 – 9:45 pm	Board Meeting at Gloria Plasker's, 106 Park St., Hurley
9	2:30 pm	Resource Development meeting at Margaret Sellers's, 80 Ringtop Rd., Kingston
10	Noon	Naturalization Ceremony – Ulster County Courthouse, 285 Wall St, Kingston. Members wishing to participate should arrive ½ hour early. Contact Jean McGarry at jfmcg@hvc.rr.com or 336-6622
14	6:30 pm	Public Hearing on UCCC Budget, Student Lounge, Vanderlyn Hall, UCCC
18	1:00 – 3:00 pm	A memorial service and community celebration for Mescal Hornbeck will be held at the Woodstock Community Center, Rock City Rd. <i>See Membership News for more details.</i>
28	5:30pm	Solid Waste Study Committee Meeting, Gateway Diner, Highland (near Mid-Hudson Bridge) packback56@yahoo.com
TBA	4 – 8 pm	Board 2011-12 PLANNING Meeting
JULY		
2	10:00 am	Informal graveside service for Fran Hofer at 10:00 am on July 2nd at the Evergreen Cemetery, Rt 83A, Pine Plains, NY and thereafter a gathering at Fran's home. <i>See Membership News for more details.</i>

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

Commentator archives, State and National League newsletters are at <http://lwwvmidhudson.org/Newsletters.html>

MEMBERS: Need a ride? Want to car-pool?
 Contact Dare Thompson, 236-3074 or darethompson@gmail.com
 Interested in one of our committees? Just show up at a meeting.
 Our members are always welcome.

PREZ SEZ...

Our 2010-11 League year ends as we move into the lovely month of June. Except for the fact that **dues are due**, that probably doesn't matter much to most members. But our Annual Meeting (written up elsewhere in this *Commentator*) gave many of us a much-appreciated chance to stop and take stock, welcome our new members, elect new board members, thank retiring ones, and adopt local program.

We thank **Frank Cassetta** and **Karen Goertzel** for their board service as they leave and we welcome to the board **Jim Mahoney** (whom you'll maybe remember as the co-chair of our recent Golden Hill study). Jim is also the father of **Kelsey**, our 2010 Student Inside Albany, and it was great to have Kelsey happily introduce the 2011 Student Inside Albany, **Jessie Pauli**, who shared her often-amusing impressions of Albany.

Jim, Kelsey and Jessie will all be at the **June 5th luncheon**, so you'll have another chance to chat with them.

Under local program we will be continuing our **Shared Services** study chaired by **Lee Cane** (for some time with **Jacki Moriarty**), and it now has an independent branch in Dutchess led by **Ellie Charwat**.

We also adopted a new study: **How should Ulster and Dutchess Counties best manage their solid waste?** The solid waste study is chaired by **Cindy Lanzetta** and she has eight other knowledgeable committee members so far (and welcomes more!) It's so good to have **Shirley Kobran**, a pioneer citizen warrior for wise solid waste management, still involved, along with **Emilie Hauser** and **Manna Jo Greene**. But there are new faces too. This time we are working with concerned citizens in Dutchess who face similar issues.

We heard **Tom Kadgen**, our chief advocate in the Ulster Legislature, remind us that there are plenty of other issues too - **Golden Hill**, **charter revision** and more. And he reminds the Observer Corps (**Margaret Sellers**, **Lee Cane**, **Vic Melville**, and others) that now that the executive branch is well settled in, we should start monitoring them as closely as we do the legislators.

And of course our Voter Service chair, **Cindy Bell**, reminded us that we need moderators, timekeepers, and other volunteers to continue to serve our communities, and our webmaster, **Jim McGarry** told us that www.vote411.org is now the go-to site in New York for voter information and we will be doing our best to keep current local information on that site.

Meanwhile, now that Ulster has proudly completed its first-ever **non-partisan redistricting** plan (with the Commission even getting a standing ovation as well as a 29-2 vote), we move our attention to Dutchess County which has until 2013 to complete its plan. Let me know if you want to get updates on this.

Finally we expressed appreciation to all the unsung volunteer heroes who keep the infrastructure of our organization running smoothly in too many ways to name. This is never clearer than at our annual meeting and annual luncheon when **Irene McInnis**, **Anna Brett**, **Betty Chin**, **Evelyn Ness**, **Gloria Plasker**, **Lee Ridgway**, **Renee Sachs**, **Margaret Sellers**, **Esther Sticklely**, **Dorothy Winrow**, and others make all the pieces come together.

We welcome YOUR involvement too. With many thanks to all, happy new year!

Dare

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PROGRAM NEWS**Susan B. Anthony Luncheon**

We remind you that the annual luncheon of the Mid-Hudson League of Women Voters is **Sunday, June 5, at 1 pm at the Wiltwyck Golf Club** in Kingston. We hope you haven't forgotten to send in your response. We want you there!

Honorees are Eleanor and Martin Charwat, Martin Ruglis, and Al Spada. Richard Mathews is the emcee. Their bios follow.

We will also hear from Barbara Bartoletti, the League's "voice" at the state Capitol, about the current mood in Albany.

Tickets are \$40 pp. There is a cash bar. Checks should be sent to LWV Mid-Hudson at PO Box 3564, Kingston, NY 12402. If you cannot come and want to make a tax-deductible contribution, make the check out to the LWV Education Fund.

We hope to see you there!

BIOS:

CHARWATS: Long-time residents of Poughkeepsie, they have been actively involved in their community in many ways for years. **ELLIE** has been the coordinator of many LWV activities in Dutchess and has worked on programs at the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Poughkeepsie Public Library and the Dutchess County Historical Society. Presently she serves as a tutor in the English as a Second Language for Literacy Connections. **MARTIN**, a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, spent many years working in various programs throughout the world. After returning to the US, he graduated from GU's Law School and joined a family law practice in Poughkeepsie. He has served on many boards in Poughkeepsie and was the co-founder and first president of the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley. He is currently a certified financial planner.

RUGLIS: Martin recently retired as the Ulster County BOCES Superintendent. He began his career as a special education teacher for the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES in 1971. After teaching emotionally disturbed children for 14 years, he served as Director of Alternative Education, Coordinator of Special Education and as principal of the Career and Technical Education Center in Troy. In 1986 he became Assistant Director of Special Education for the Schenectady School District and then moved on to be Superintendent with Keene Central District. Martin then returned to the BOCES system near Buffalo and finally assumed the Ulster BOCES Superintendency in 2000. Presently he and his wife work as consultants to educational institutions.

SPADA: As a lifelong Kingston resident, Al was elected Ulster County Clerk in 1966 and was re-elected eleven times until he retired in 2005 after 39 years. During his career he served on many community boards, including the board of Benedictine Hospital, Kingston Hospital, Key Bank, and the NYS Advisory Board of Public Works. He was the Republican County Chairman from 1969-1976 and has been a member of the Heritage Advisory Council, the VFW, and the American Legion.

MATHEWS: Rich is a former legislator and Commissioner of Jurors of Ulster County.

BARTOLETTI: Barbara has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 1978 and the Legislative Director for the League of Women Voters of New York State since 1988. Barbara oversees all legislation of interest to the League in the state legislature. She lectures statewide on advocacy/issues and topics such as informed and active participation in government. In addition, she offers political commentary for local television outlets in the Capital District. She advocates on good government issues to statewide editorial boards. Barbara currently sits as a member of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Mandate Relief Redesign Team.

**The Annual
Meeting of Mid-
Hudson Region,
May 18, 2011**

The annual meeting was, as always, a time of good food and good fellowship. New members and longtime members attended, including a new member, Nan Foley, from Dutchess County. President Dare Thompson introduced the members who had joined since our last annual meeting and our 2011 Student Inside Albany (SIA), Jessie Pauli, was introduced by our 2010 SIA member, Kelsey Mahoney, and spoke of her experience (it was rewarding).

The budget was reviewed and passed unanimously.

Committee chairmen spoke briefly and answered questions.

- Margaret Sellers thanked the Observer Corps members, and invited others to participate. She also urged members to bring in more members. She noted that we lost 3 long-time members (Irwin Gellen, Fran Hofler, and Mescal Hornbeck) and said that memorial services are planned for Hofler and Hornbeck. Some members plan to attend these memorials; details will appear elsewhere in the Commentator. She commended Dare Thompson for the outstanding job she did on the Redistricting Commission and congratulated her and the League, who supported her, on the success of the plan.
- Cindy Bell (Voter Service) thanked the people who had moderated and kept time. She said we need more moderators as we are still not able to meet all requests for moderators.

She also thanked Lee Cane for distributing the Facts For Voters.

- Tom Kadgen (Advocacy) said that the legislators are still learning their new roles in the government under the Charter, and said that because of the redistricting they seemed to feel and act like lame ducks. There is little interest in the environment in the present legislature. He reminded us that the Observer Corps needs to pay more attention to the executive branch, where much of the county work is now being done.
- Jim McGarry spoke about the online voter service information which was not very successful last year. A better platform and more national and state League support should make for much better data this year. The state League is now supporting www.vote411.org exclusively.

Esther Stickley spoke about the new LWVUS Membership and Leadership Program, which has produced a how-to book, and has undertaken a mentoring program to train coaches to help local leagues recruit and grow members for leadership roles in our leagues. Dare is the coordinator of the state coaches and will coach a league.

Lee Cane discussed the progress of the Shared Services Study. The judiciary and economic development pieces still need to be worked on with the highway piece almost complete. The study was approved to continue for another year.

Cindy Lanzetta told the meeting that solid waste management is becoming a critical issue in Ulster and Dutchess counties. A group of concerned and well-qualified people from both counties has started meeting to consider waste disposal from a regional rather than individual county perspective. The group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30 at the Gateway Diner in Highland, and interested people are encouraged to join. A local study on "How should Dutchess and Ulster counties best manage their waste?" was adopted by the league.

Appointments were approved as follows:

- Vice-President 2011-2013: Irene McInnis
- Secretary 2011-2012: Jean McGarry
- Directors 2011-2013: Betty Chin, James Mahoney, Lee Ridgway
- Nominating Committee 2011-2012: Lee Cane, Frank Cassetta, Renée Sachs

Inside Albany

Here are a few photos of Jessie Pauli, our 2011 "Inside Albany" participant.



ADVOCACY & STUDY

Ulster County Shared Services Study

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

- [Ulster Intergovernmental Summary Report](#)
- [Economic Study](#)
- [Judicial Study](#)
- [Highway Study](#)
- [Action Plan](#)

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 Study
Group 2**

League Consensus Report to the Ulster County Legislature.

Summary: http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Consensus_Summary.pdf
Statement: http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Consensus_Statement.pdf
Pros & Cons: http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Study-Pros_and_Cons_10-19-10.pdf
Materials and resources used by the League in formulating its consensus
http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html.

**OBSERVER
CORPS -
ULSTER
COUNTY**

**Ulster County
Legislature
Meeting
May 17, 2011**

The meeting was preceded by a public hearing on an introductory local law, for 23 single-member legislative districts.

Public comments addressed the issue of public responsibilities vs. private objectives. Speakers spoke in favor of Golden Hill, Mental Health and services to the poor and homeless.

In addition to the array of contract approvals, board and commission appointments and property tax enforcement matters, the highlight of the May 17th meeting of the legislature was, of course, reapportionment. On May 17, 2011 the UC Legislature adopted the Commission's by 29-2. Voting against the plan were Legislators Aiello and Terrizzi. Absent were Legislators Gerentine and Shapiro. Those legislators who spoke gave high praise to the hard work the Commission (*including our esteemed president, Dare Thompson*) put in over the past few months and expressed general agreement with the plan (excepting Legislators Aiello and Terrizzi.)

Go to <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/reapportionment/draft.html> to view the approved map and see what district you are in. The Board of Elections website look-up tool has NOT yet been updated with the new district data. Look for a mailing from the board sometime this summer telling you exactly what district you are in and where you will cast your ballot

Interesting items enacted included

- requiring Healthy-Vending Options In County Buildings no later than January 1, 2012, (NOES: Legislators Bernardo, Roberts and Sweeney)
- setting a date (June 21, 2011) for a public hearing on adding parcels to the Agricultural District (readers will recall the substantial controversy regarding certain properties in the New Paltz area),
- formally requesting the state legislature to approve extending the additional 1% sales tax levy for 2 years. (NOES: Legislators Bernardo, Petit, Roberts and Sweeney)

Jim McGarry

NOTE: To view meeting videos visit <http://www.totalwebcasting.com/live/ulster/>
 For information about current and past legislation go to <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/>.
 Be sure to look at the Observer Corp reports below and in previous Commentator editions (<http://lwvmidhudson.org/Newsletters.html>) as well as the UC Legislature Committee Agendas/Minutes at <http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/committeesinfo/index.html>

Reapportionment

The Reapportionment Commission was convened by Facilitator Commissioner Thompson at

Commission

7:05 PM on May 2, 2011 and adjourned at 8:10.

All commissioners were present. Other attendees: Rob Leibowitz, Senior Planner, Vicki Fabella, Commission Secretary, members of the county legislature, members of the public.

Initially, version 7 of the map, which the commission had discussed at the meeting on April 27, was put up for reference. Then the alternative developed by Commissioners Benkert and Messina was put in its place.

The former noted that Walker Valley was still with T/Shawangunk, but one section is with T/Wawarsing; one prison was allocated to T/Gardiner, one to T/Shawangunk; and the T/Gardiner extends down to the border with Orange County. Commissioner Benkert also noted that this was not perfect, but he doubted that any arrangement would be.

During the Public Comment period which was held first there were several comments:

-request that the wards assigned to the 3 districts in City of Kingston be altered in order to retain what was considered the type of neighborhoods that had been previously developed creating an up town, mid town, and down town districts(Commissioners felt it had discussed this matter sufficiently and extensively and made no change);

-the plan as presented in version 8 was very good (the Commissioners appreciated these sentiments);

-Bishops Gate belonged in Glasco, not with Barclay Heights (no action to change later on);

-the commission should make sure that whatever it finally decides on as a plan, it should be able to justify whatever it presents to the county legislature;

-Hurley and West Hurley should be as one (no change was made);

-a single legislative district should be created for T/Ulster (no change made);

one speaker opposed the arrangements for Gardiner and Shawangunk; the other speaker didn't....the latter said that all the people he had spoken to were satisfied with the matter as shown in version 8);

for Marlboro and Plattekill the school district, part of the one in Plattekill is in Marlboro (Commissioners did not change; it had already tried to make use of those lines to no avail, so had stayed with town lines as per the charter.).

Once public comment period finished at about 7:35, the Commissioners spent about 20 minutes deciding whether to adopt the plan. Generally agreed they had discussed all the pointed that had just been raised in the public comment period.

Commissioner Benkert then moved the acceptance of the plan, version 8, second by Commissioner Messina. Roll call vote results in a unanimous yes vote, with comments re the individual voter.

The Commission will meet again to complete its final written report which will include recommendations to the next commission, 10 years hence: such items as investigating weighted voting, have its own legal counsel, engage a consultant, etc.

Commissioner Benjamin commented on the negative comments made throughout the Commission's time regarding Rob Leibowitz, which he felt were uncalled for and unjustified. He felt that Mr. Leibowitz had done fine work, been of tremendous assistance and help particularly when it was determined that the soft ware was not what it should have been; he was owed an apology. There did not appear to be any disagreement with that point. Whatever, it was agreed that the final report should be reflective of the commissioners thinking.

The Clerk of the Legislature, Karen Binder, explained what would most likely be the procedure to get the plan to the county legislature, etc:

-she would speak with the county chairman on May 3, who would call a special meeting of the county legislature for May 9; need a final report from the commission by May 5; need local law prepared for May 11; public hearing to be scheduled for May 17; and a special meeting of the county legislature for May 23, presumably to adopt the local law and therefore the plan.

At the time of the above meeting this observer reviewed the towns in each district and the wards in each of the districts in the City of Kingston with one of the commissioners and one of the legislators. The results are below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 1 West Saugerties • District 2 Saugerties Village & Barclay Heights • District 3 Southern Saugerties & Northern Ulster • District 4 T/Kingston & T/Ulster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 13 Eastern Shawangunk • District 14 Western Shawangunk & Wawarsing • District 15 T/Wawarsing, Greater Ellenville & Cragmore • District 16 Gardiner & N. Shawangunk
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 5 Wards 1,2, 4 • District 6 Wards 3,5, 9 • District 7 Wards 6, 7, 8 • District 8 Majority of Esopus • District 9 Western Lloyd & Northern Plattekill • District 10 Eastern Lloyd & Northern Marlboro • District 11 Southern Marlboro • District 12 Remainder of Plattekill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 17 T/New Paltz & Southwestern Esopus • District 18 Northern Marbletown & Hurley • District 19 Rosendale & Southern Marbletown • District 20 Village of New Paltz • District 21 T/Rochester & Kerhonkson • District 22 T/Hardenburgh, T/Denning, T/Shandaken, T/Oliver • District 23 T/Woodstock & Part of T/Hurley
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Note: On May 17, 2011 the UC Legislature adopted the Commission's by 29-2. Go to <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/reapportionment/draft.html> to view the approved map.

The meeting of the Reapportionment Commission was convened by Facilitator, Commissioner Lowe on May 11, 2011 at 3:09 and adjourned at 5:02.

Present: Benjamin, Benkert, Lowe, Messina, Thompson, West, Catalinotto (arrived late).

Other attendees: County Attorney Havranek, Vicki Fabella, Commission Secretary, Hugh Reynolds, Kingston Times, Board of Elections Commissioners Turco and Work.

The primary reason for holding the meeting was to comply the commission's final report on its work. The commissioners discussed the elements of the report throughout the meeting. Apparently the commissioners had exchanged e-mails with their thinking of what should be included.

It was pointed out that they wished to let the next commission know up front what type of stumbling blocks it might face so that it would not need to review all the minutes of this commission.

Commissioner Lowe suggested that there were actually two audiences that they would have: the charter revision commission and the reapportionment commission.

The group decided to follow Commissioner West's suggestion to initially list all those recommendations they could agree with to begin with.

Some of the items that the group agreed on are as follows:

- the commission should have maximum control under the law of its finances;
- the commission should be able to hire professional staff, consultants, attorney, etc. as needed;
- the net of people from which the commissioners are selected should be broadened and kept as wide open as possible;
- the charter commission and the legislature should address the definition of "public official"; and make it a broad one;
- should address what to do about the prison population, i.e., to count or not count;
- change the name of the commission to districting commission;
- research any soft ware proposal early on;
- charter commission should clarify that when the plan is presented to the county legislature, the result should be an up or down vote by the latter;
- charter commission should consider the recommendation requiring commission to elect a chair person rather than alternating facilitators.

It was suggested that the actual draft of the report was to be addressed by Commissioner Benkert working with the Commission Secretary Fabella and then shared with the other commissioners.

After considerable discussion it was determined that the final report was to be prepared, transmitted to each commissioner by May 18 and the commission would meet again on May 23 at 5PM to finalize the work.

This was possible as it was not necessary for the final report to be completed and presented to the county legislature prior to the public hearing May 17 and the vote of the county legislature, which is to take place after the public hearing on May 17, as the legislature has the plan itself.

The last part of the meeting had two items for the commission to deal with: the report of the Commissioners of the Board of Elections advising the committee that there were some minor problems, which would not change the 23 legislative districts it had created, but nevertheless

the changes that had been made in some of the election districts needed to be addressed; and a report from the county attorney with regard to a communiqué she had received from the NYS Civil Liberties Union regarding the use of the prison population numbers being counted.

The commissioners appeared to be surprised and puzzled with respects to what the Elections Commissioners were telling them, particularly as to why they had not been advised sooner. The Elections Commissioners said they would get them the information as soon as possible. However, the county attorney advised the commission that any change to the plan that has already been submitted to the county legislature could only carry the Reapportionment Commission's endorsement. As a result of this information the commissioners voted to meet on Monday, May 16 at 4 PM to evaluate the information from the Board of Elections.

With respects to the communication from the Civil Liberties Union, the county attorney indicated that she had advised that group's representative that she did not agree with him that the prison population should not be counted and at this point it was a timing matter as well. As to what will be the final result of this situation is not yet determined.

While not every county in NYS counts this particular population, UC has now and did in the last time around.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The UC Reapportionment Commission was convened by facilitator, Commissioner Benkert at 4:06 on 5-16-11 and adjourned at 5:20. The Commissioners were all present except for Commissioner Catalinotto.

Other attendees: County Attorney Havranek, Legislative counsel: Gilligan, Ragucci, Kavanaugh; Commission Secretary Fabella, Victor Work, Commissioner of the Board of Elections

The primary reason for this meeting was to enable the Commissioners to review the final report, to review the report from the Board of Elections made at the last meeting and to review the work completed by the County Attorney with regards to the communiqué from the NYS Civil Liberties Union.

Initially, the Commissioners went over the results of the work performed by Commissioners Lowe and Messina with respects to the Board of Elections concerns about some 20 changes to certain election districts. They had reduced that number to 8 possibles. The concern was that if certain changes were not made it could cost the towns in question \$6000 for each new election district made. Such changes as were considered were presumably for the convenience of the voters. However, the numbers involved, just over 300, were people, not necessarily voters.

Once the 8 possible changes were considered (7 of which the commissioners were prepared to support), the three attorneys for the majority and minority parties of the legislature asked a number of questions. Both the Commissioners and the County Attorney provided explanations. The attorneys then left for about 15 minutes to discuss what they had been advised. It should be noted that the question they were considering was whether any of the 7 changes being proposed to the plan already submitted to the county legislature could be considered as substantive. Further, the commissioners could only endorse/support these changes; they could not actually change the plan already submitted.

Upon their return Mr. Gilligan, speaking for all 3 attorneys, advised the Commission that they felt that the 7 proposed changes to the voting districts would be substantive in nature, that such could result in a challenge and possible law suit and recommended that such not be followed through on. At that point the Commissioners voted to withdraw the amendments entirely.

As to the memo the County Attorney had prepared to be sent to the NYS CLU, the Commissioners reviewed it; Mrs. Havranek noted she had spoken to Mr. Eisenberg of the CLU, he seemed to understand what UC's position was on the matter of including prison inmates in the census count in creating the 23 legislative districts. Such population was included, the Commission had in fact adjusted for this population by putting two of the prisons in separate towns rather than both in one town.

After review and discussion the Commission authorized the County Attorney to send the memo to the NYSCLU.

The Commissioners looked at the draft final report, discussed some points in the recommendations, and decided it would meet May 23 at 5PM to finalize their views. They will communicate via e-mail prior to that date on individual views regarding the final report.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Governmental Services & Administration Committee

Note: On May 17, 2011 the UC Legislature adopted the Commission's by 29-2. Go to <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/reapportionment/draft.html> to view the approved map and see what district you are in. As of this writing the Board of Elections website look-up tool has NOT been updated with the new district data. No doubt its staff is working feverishly to complete the revisions. Look for a mailing from the board sometime this summer telling you exactly what district you are in and where you will cast your ballot.

Special Meeting

Date: May 9, 2011 Start Time: 6:46 p.m. Finish time: 6:50 p.m.

A resolution was adopted for setting a public hearing on an introductory local law, for 23 single-member legislative districts, to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

Ulster County Legislature: Governmental Services & Administrative Committee, held at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY

Date: May 16, 2011 Start Time: 6:00 p.m. Finish Time: 6:53 p.m. Date: May 17, 2011

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting to order, followed by approving minutes from April 25, 2011, and May 9, 2011, meetings.

All resolutions were adopted, except the introductory local law, for 23 single-member legislative districts, which was discussed prior to the public hearing on May 17. Dare Thompson, a member of the Commission on Reapportionment, provided comments and explanations. The resolution pertaining to the 23 single-member districts was postponed until after the public hearing, at which the committee adopted the resolution, prior to the legislative regular meeting on May 17 where the local law was enacted.

Date: May 16, 2011

[On May 10, 2011, a public hearing was held on an introductory law pertaining to Ulster County Solid Waste Management. Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA), Agency Counsel, Stephen J. Wing, Esq., presented public comment in favor of the law. He was the only one who commented.]

Regarding the UCRRA, Legislator Kenneth Ronk announced an information meeting on Flow Control to be held on June 14 at 7:00 p.m. [Subsequently to be rescheduled, date TBA.]

Tim Rose, P.E., UCRRA Executive Director, told the committee he had had a good, but brief, discussion with County Executive Michael Hein. Flow Control would be on the agenda of the UCRRA Board meeting to follow this committee meeting. There was discussion on hauling practices, waste sites and haulers. This discussion is in anticipation of bids coming in, new contracts with the towns, and of the proposed introductory local law on solid waste management. Emilie Hauser (member of the League) also attended the meeting.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 5/23/11

NOTE: The announced information meeting for Flow Control will NOT be held on June 14 as it is in conflict with the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget of UCCC for 2011 - 2012 on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 6:30 PM

Economic Development and Tourism

Date: May 9, 2011 Start Time: 5:48 p.m. Finish Time: 6:27 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order, followed by roll call and approval of the minutes of the April 4, 2011, meeting.

All resolutions were approved as amended.

Lance Matteson, President, Ulster County Development Corporation (UCDC), discussed the UCDC Update: Melinda Beuf, Director of Business Development & Marketing, is working a day a week in the Ellenville area. Legislator Walter Frey suggested the effort is publicized; status of current activities including plans for a new Central Hudson substation in Saugerties (special PILOT that may boost value by nearly \$12M).

Legislator Michael Sweeney again requested a representative of TechCity address the committee.

Carl Meyer, Co-CEO, The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) presented an encouraging outlook for renewable and solar energy projects in the county considering the challenging and competitive conditions. There are new state level initiatives toward making New York more competitive. Legislator Catherine Terrizzi asked: Can we compete? Yes, provided an integrated effort of the county organizations.

Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services

Arthur Smith, UC Budget Director, represented Bob DiBella, Director, UCAT, and Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning, and briefly discussed some budget items.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 5/23/11

Date: May 3, 2011 Start Time: 5:00 p.m. Finish Time: 6:32 p.m.

Wayne Harris, Chairman, called the meeting to order followed by approval of the minutes of the April 5, 2011, and April 12, 2011, meetings.

Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster (UCCC), discussed: the events of the Scholarship Program on May 3 and Graduation Day on May 18, the nursing program, and enrollment and budget issues. Concerning enrollment, full time enrollment is lower. Concerning the budget, there was a discussion of the chargeback for Ulster County students attending Dutchess and Orange community colleges, the consequence if the county does not maintain a level funding (maintenance of effort) and a discussion about in-kind services.

A resolution was passed of the notice of a public hearing on the tentative budget of the UCCC for the year 2011-2012 on Tuesday, June 14, 2011.

Sue Hoger, Advisory Committee for the Office for the Aging and representing the Resource Center for Accessible Living (RECAL) discussed issues of the senior population including: Medicaid, nursing homes, long-term care and continuum of care, Meals on Wheels and Community First (Federal block grant concerns).

Jim Cosgrove of the UC Library Association introduced Ms. Mary Lou Carolan, Director, Walkkill Public Library, to address the committee on the many programs and activities of their library.

A resolution was passed for the 2011 appropriations to libraries.

Lydia Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of UC, reviewed their activities of the garden season and the ag community including: a needs assessment for housing (year round housing for families as a new need), healthy kids, nutrition and parenting programs, the Ulster County Fair planning, and the invasion of the "stink bug", as a serious situation as they "eat any live plants".

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 5/23/11

Health and Human Services

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was convened at 6PM by Deputy Chairman Rob Parete and adjourned at 6:30.

Members present: Parete, Harris, Maio, Briggs, Loughran, Stoeckeler

Absent: Frey, Ronk and Petit

Legislator Parete requested that all the legislators present introduce themselves as there was a large number of the public present

The minutes from the April 21 and April 26 meetings were approved.

There were 5 resolutions for the committee to deal with. All were passed.

In addition there was a resolution from the previous month dealing with what type of food would be offered in the county vending machines. Previously it had been suggested that all the offerings had to be healthy choices; and if a suitable vendor could not be found then all the county vending machines would be removed from county buildings. At that time the members of the committee had objected saying that people needed to have choices. The resolution had been pulled at that time. Now, Mr. Parete indicated that he had done some additional investigation and during the discussion the committee agreed that there would be a 50/50 spread as to healthy choices and regular ones. A friendly amendment was there for made with that in mind, and an extension in the main motion allowing for finding a suitable vendor by December 31, 2011, the motion as amended was passed.

Once the above business had been addressed Legislator Parete inquired of the 11 people present whether they were all from UC Mental Health. They were. He asked if one was prepared to explain to the committee what brought them to this meeting.

One of the representatives stated that the reason for coming was their concern about what they had been hearing since about February of this year:

- in February, 2011 had heard from Dr. Hasbrouck and DCE Beckman that UCMH and UCDOH were to be merged;
- Institute of Family Health apparently was a possible buyer; had applied for an Article 31...some form of a legal requirement; and in recent weeks representatives of that organization had been at MH at about 7:30 AM doing a walk through; and it was noted that they had blueprints;

- Kingston Hospital was not doing well financially with the methodon clinic; might be handing it back to the county. Apparently the chemical dependency unit was having some problems as well;
- had heard that there was some intent to privatize UCMH as it was not a mandated service. Mr. Parete noted that the department is provided for under the charter. Further, while the County Executive may make appointments and reorganize executive departments, the county legislature must confirm any such actions.

He also suggested that the committee was not aware of these situations. Following discussion the committee passed a motion put forth by Legislator SToeckeler, that a letter be sent to County Executive Hein to provide information by caucus time, Tuesday, May 10 explaining what was going on; and request that DCE Beckman and Dr. Hasbrouck should be present at the committee meeting to answer such questions that would arise. The motion was passed.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Board of Health

The UC Board of Health was convened by President, Dr. Tack at 7:03 on May 9, 2011 and adjourned at 8:10.

Members present: Tack, Delma, Stellato, Hilderbrand, Authenreich

Other attendees: Director Hasbrouck, Mrs. Veytia, Environmental Director Erica Gifford, Katrina Kouhout, secretary to Dr. Hasbrouck

Minutes with corrections of April 11 minutes approved

The initial period of the meeting was devoted to a response by the owner of the Scandinavian Grace Café, located on Rt. 28, to being charged with many violations of the UC Sanitary Code. The members each introduced themselves to the owner. The owner explained that he had tried to fight this as long as he could. He could not understand why he must have permits to sell 30 cups of coffee per week (has 10 seats; apparently sells furniture primarily), when he had been given to understand that he could open a B & B and serve food to the guests without a permit.

At That point his landlord presented a variety of comments: he felt the \$5000 fine was excessive, plus the \$6000 to pay for the installation of a water filtration system as well as a method of heating to ensure appropriate care for the equipment and contents during the cold weather, particularly when there had never been a water problem. He found this hard to accept (he gave a listing of prices for the various items that appeared to amount to more than \$6000); he hoped for leniency and a lesser fine which could be "stretched out over time" to be paid; remarked on the fact that if he was put out of business, he, the landlord, would lose a source of income, would have a problem himself in paying taxes; tenant is trying to do as much as possible but these are difficult economic times to do business.

Following the above comments Dr. Hasbrouck noted that the amount of the fines are generated by the number of violations (Note: the owner had been charged with 12 violations of the NYS Sanitary Code, the UC Sanitary Code, etc....see summary for April 11, 2011 meeting); that the \$5000 fine was half what the number of violations could have generated (the owner and landlord apparently were aware of that); he did ask why the owner had taken down the closure sign more than once and continued to operate the café: the response: the partner had taken the sign down and he, the owner, did know that she should not be operating the café.

The landlord then continued and referenced Dean Palen, the former Director of the Department of Health, who had apparently visited the café, advised that they would get a waiver, but then Mr. Palen was removed from his position.

Dr. Hasbrouck then asked if the landlord was suggesting that the Board of Health should customize the sanitary code or wait until a real problem materialized. The landlord said that's the way things were done. If customizing, he asked the Board to lean towards his tenant; if standardizing the rules, then they would have to follow such.

Dr. Stellato asked for a review of the various items in the plumber, estimate bill, which the landlord then reviewed.

The Board moved to executive session from 7:30-7:40; and this observer was absent from the meeting.

On return, Dr. Hasbrouck introduced Erica Gifford who is the new environmental services director. She comes from Tioga County, is an engineer and has DOH background. Further, he reported that the task force dealing with the proposed merger of the UCDOH and UCMH meets regularly every other week; it is a big committee; moving along well; and the end of June due to have a report released (Note: see summary of April 11 meeting of the Board for additional information).

**The Ulster
County
Association of
Town
Supervisors**

In June, Director Gifford will report on the second half of the Sanitary Code work. There was no medical examiner's report.

Mrs. Veytia reported that the work on completing the sale of the 2 health licenses to Will Care was moving along. Those who have been cared for under the LTC license of UC have been transferred to Will Care under the UC license. UC can still receive referrals, evaluate and then refer to Will Care. She noted that the county Health and Human Services Committee had approved the work in April.

Additionally, the DOH is continuing to work on its community outreach program for prevention work. Most recently helped with the Women's Expo. They are also working to ensure that children who are uninsured can receive care and are working with school nurses on this project.

Director Gifford report that state representatives had visited this past week to meet her and to review some of the programs, i.e. water monitoring. There have been 90 visits to establishments selling tobacco products....referred to as sting operations...and with the help of a high school studenthave been successful....no fines.

Following discussion, the Board voted to charge \$100 for informal hearings.

Question was raised about another member for the Board...possible candidate being considered...from Institute of Family Life.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The monthly meeting of the Town Supervisors was convened by President, T/Supervisor Valk on May 17, 2011 at 8:35 and adjourned at 10:10.

Attendees from the towns of: Denning, Gardiner, Hardenburgh, Hurley, Kingston, New Paltz, Plattekill, Rochester, Shandaken, Shawangunk, Ulster, Wawarsing and Woodstock.

Other attendees: County Executive Hein, Tim Tabor and Glenn Gildaly of Barton and Loguidice Engineers, Laura Walls, Deputy UC Comptroller, DSS Commissioner Rodriguez.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to comments from County Executive Hein and Q & A with the Supervisors

Initially, he spoke of the change that had been made in the % share of financial responsibility for the Safety Net Program. State law has now changed the percentage to 71% towns, 29% state. (Note: the towns were very upset about this change as noted later in this summary).

Mr. Hein was "comfortable" with the plan submitted by the Reapportionment Commission. He will sign if there are no substantive changes.

Fiscal comments led to the information about the discussion on the possible privatization of the UCMH services.

He pointed out that 67% of the county budget deals with mandated services. However, there are four services provided by the county that are not mandated: the county nursing home (Golden Hill), UCCC, UC Mental Health and the Sheriff's Road Patrol.

Mr. Hein advised the supervisors that the state had taken 1/3 of the NYS Medicaid budget equaling \$2.8 billion and apparently moved it to the aegis of the NY Health Commissioner who in July presumably will make cuts.

He encouraged the supervisor to call him and his office at any time. They would be responded to; information acquired for them.

Question was raised with regard to the DSS non-mandated transportations costs particularly the \$2.1 million on taxis. Mr. Hein observed that there is no question DSS has a transportation problem. This too was taken up later in the meeting.

Glenn Gildaly and Tim Taber of the Barton and Loguidice Engineering firm were next on the agenda. Mr. Taber presented a summary on the topic of asset management and saving money. The areas for such roads, sewers, highways. He pointed out that assets need to be identified; determine what is owned, develop a plan re how to handle the assets long-term, i.e. look 5 years down the road, know who the people are who have been dealing with these areas...who have institutional knowledge. Real benefits could be secured if the T/Supervisors engaged in this type of planning.

The last topic on the program was a visit from Commissioner Rodriguez of DSS.

He reviewed the latest changes in the Safety Net financials. The fact that the towns would be responsible for 71% and the state 29% did not sit well with the supervisors.

They had received notices plus bills and the costs were retroactive to January, 2011. Since it was now 5 months into the fiscal year, they were placed in a negative position regarding the funding aspects, given that their budgets for the year 2011 had been approved months ago.

Other aspects of the discussion involved the sales tax and how it is distributed, the non-

mandated transportation costs of \$2.1 million for taxis, etc. With respects to the last item, the Commissioner indicated that some changes had developed with the state taking over the program and that in the future he expects that there will be savings.

He noted that he is willing to sit down with anyone of them, to discuss their concerns, review, cases, etc.

Later the supervisors discussed developing a subcommittee (Valk, Chipman, Quigley) to draft an appropriate statement of their position on these matters.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A memorial service and community celebration for Mescal Hornbeck will be held at the Woodstock Community Center, Rock City Road, on Saturday, June 18th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Mescal died during the winter but if she had lived she'd have been 100 June 17th. So... this memorial is the day after her birthday which would have been quite an event.

Mescal was losing her sight and her hearing those last months of her life, but not her keen intelligence or her sense of humor. She continued to write her column in the Woodstock Times occasionally through the autumn. In fact, she wrote enthusiastically about the help she was receiving from the wonderful volunteers from "Staying in Place"... our new organization to help members stay in their homes as they grow older.

Judith Boggess, the organizer of the Mescal tribute, hopes people will come to share their memories informally. She can be reached at 845-657-5817 if anyone wants more information.

Family and friends of Fran Hofler will gather for an informal graveside service at 10:00 am on July 2nd at the Evergreen Cemetery, Rt 83A, Pine Plains, NY. A caravan (with carpooling) will form at Fran's home, 1364 Hurley Mt. Road, Hurley, NY at 9:00 am for those wishing to travel as part of a group.

Following the service there will be an afternoon of food, fun and memories at Fran's home. Everyone is invited to attend either or both. Contact Shirley Kobran at (845) 382-6989 for more details.

We especially encourage League members to attend and share their appreciation for the contributions these two remarkable women made to our organization and our lives.

I/we wish to become members of the LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region through May 31, 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (day) _____ (eve) _____

Email: _____

I/We enclose: Individual Membership (\$50) _____ Household Membership (\$75) _____

Additional gift to the LWV Education Fund (*tax deductible*;) for our use
(Please send a separate check which **MUST** be payable to NYSLWV Ed Fund) \$ _____

If you are upgrading to a Household Membership, please
include the name and email address of new members _____

Will receive *Commentator* _____ online &/or will read it on website or _____ Please mail *Commentator*

**(Complete the above form and return it to us with your check at
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League of Women Voters
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June 2011
Commentator