



# Commentator

JUNE 2015

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action. The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.*

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WE WELCOME THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT ALL EVENTS!		
2015		
June		
5-7		<b>LWVNYS Convention</b> , The Desmond, Albany Five LWV-MHR members are attending as delegates. To attend all or part, go to <a href="http://www.lwvny.org">www.lwvny.org</a> or call 518-465-4162 for details.
9	<b>Tues. 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Materials Management</b> Committee, Gateway Diner, 379 Rt. 9W, Highland (just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge, across from Burger King).
12	<b>Fri. Noon</b>	<b>Naturalization Ceremony</b> . Ulster County Courthouse, 285 Wall Street, Kingston. <b>LWV volunteers gather at 10:45 AM</b> to hand out voter info. Join us!  Details: Jean McGarry, 845-336-6622
13	<b>Sat Noon</b>	<b>AAUW Branch luncheon</b> , Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center, 503, Washington Ave., Kingston The speaker will be Matt Edge, lawyer-activist of The Occupy Democracy Project, <b>What's happening with public funding of political campaigns</b> For more information go to: <a href="http://kingston-ny.aauw.net/2015/05/27/mattedge613/">http://kingston-ny.aauw.net/2015/05/27/mattedge613/</a> <b>All members and friends are invited</b> <b>Reservations are required</b> by 6/9 to Irene Miller (518-678-3516, <a href="mailto:imiller65@hvc.rr.com">imiller65@hvc.rr.com</a> )
16	<b>Tues. 1:45 PM</b>	<b>Book Discussion of <i>Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal</i></b> by Aviva Chomsky. Enzo's Ristorante & Pizza, 207 Boices Lane, Kingston. Call Enzo's at <a href="tel:845-383-3696">845-383-3696</a> for directions.
25	<b>Thurs. 2-6 PM</b>	<b>LWV-MHR Board Planning Meeting</b> , home of Dorothy Winrow, 51 Norma Ct, Kingston. 845-331-3550 for directions. May be moved to Mon., 6/22, so please confirm. All members welcome!
TBA		<b>Shared Services in Dutchess</b> . Contact committee chair, Ellie Charwat, at <a href="mailto:echarwat@yahoo.com">echarwat@yahoo.com</a> for info on next meeting.

**SUPPORT the following GOOD BUSINESSES who SUPPORT US!**

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**PREZ SEZ...**

Good-bye and Hello!

I am leaving the co-presidency of our wonderful LWV-MHR to become president of the state LWV, but this is still my home league, so you've not seen the last of me. (Or of my husband, Doug, who's now going on the board. He's been a member since men were allowed in during the '70s.)

Cheers to **Jolanda Jansen** who has agreed to take on the presidency alone and to all those who will back her up, including her daughter **Soyal Smalls**, our secretary. They are from Poughkeepsie, so representation from both sides of the Hudson is now well-established.

Cheers also to our other board members this year: **VP Anne Needham, Treasurer Dorothy Winrow, Shirley Kobran, Cindy Lanzetta, Lee Ridgway, Margaret Sellers, and Esther Stickley**. Like me, Cindy, Lee, and Shirley are leaving the board at the end of May, but I know they too will stay involved, and it's great that we're not losing any others!

It's great too that in addition to **Doug, Cindy Bell, Irene McInnis, Jean McGarry, Jacki Moriarty, and Daisy Tyler** will be joining the new board.

A new source of support this year is **SPONSORS**. Please notice the page included here and use their services! Their support allows us to focus on our mission instead of on fundraising activities. If your business or one you know and love might join us next year as a sponsor, please let us know!

As I depart (sort of) I send a shout out to **all our members**, with special appreciation for those who've been here 50+ years and those who just joined us.

Ultimately it's your support that makes us strong. The need for good government watch-dogs has never been more needed, so don't ever hesitate to **be proud and loud!**

*Dave*

**MEMBERSHIP  
NEWS**

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

**STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY**

Phoebe Clark of Port Ewen, a junior at Kingston HS, was our Student Inside Albany this year and she was lucky to be in Albany at a good time weather-wise and politically.

The Assembly was in session for long enough to allow her to sit right on the floor beside Assemblyman Kevin Cahill and even go out in the hall with him to be lobbied by groups on opposite sides of an issue.

Most of the 61 students had less exciting experiences with their senators since there are only 63 senators and the Senate itself is a much smaller room, but Senator Amedore and his staff did their best to give the students in his district an interesting time.

Phoebe and the others also heard from press members Casey Seiler and Jimmy Vielkind, from another good government lobbyist, Blair Horner, and from the Alliance for Quality Education and Citizen Action who talked about different ways to organize an action campaign. They even visited the state's top court, the Court of Appeals, a place few citizens ever see!

Our unpaid long-time lobbyist, Barbara Bartoletti, was with us for most of the three days and her stories and her role-play with Sen. Latimer were rated especially high on the student evaluations. They LOVE Barbara.

Phoebe also had an experience that no one else had: she was on Kingston Community Radio ([mkcr.org](http://mkcr.org)) on Monday at 7:30 AM for a full 20 minutes! It's archived on their website. Good going, Phoebe! You did us proud.



Phoebe & Barbara Bartoletti



The Students in Albany Gang



Phoebe, Assemblyman Cahill & DareThompson

**VOTER SERVICE**

**Moderating Guidelines**

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

**Voter Registration and Organ Donor Registration**

The LWVNYS has recently announced an innovative partnership with the New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD). NYAD's mission is to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in New York State to insure a transplant for every New Yorker in need. In 2009, NYS became the first state to include an organ and tissue donor enrollment section on voter registration forms. Since inception, over 160,00 individuals have enrolled in the donor registry via voter registration forms but this still only accounts for 15% of all enrollees. With this partnership, the hope is that we can increase both voter registrations and organ and tissue donor registrations together.

Jean McGarry participated in a training webinar on May 26 to learn more about increasing organ donation in New Your State through voter registration. As a result of partnering with the New York Alliance for Donation, our league will be eligible for a \$150 stipend to be used at our league's discretion. We will also be eligible to receive free or half-priced LWVNYS voter guides this fall which will include a special section on organ donation. Our goal is to expand our voter registration efforts while highlighting the urgent need for organ donation in New York State. We will kick off this campaign starting with National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 22. Our success depends on our volunteers. Please answer the call.

**STUDY AND ADVOCACY**

**2015 Book Discussion Selections**

**UPDATES**

We continue to meet on Tuesdays at 1:45 at Enzo's Pizza, 207 Boices Lane, Kingston. An updated schedule follows below. We may make further adjustments, but we're committed to these books if you want to read ahead. But you don't have to have read the book to sit in!

Please confirm dates and times at 845-340-2004 or [www.lwvmidhudson.org](http://www.lwvmidhudson.org).

**June 16: Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal**, Aviva Chomsky, 2014  
Immigrant rights activist Aviva Chomsky shows how "illegality" and "undocumentedness" are

concepts that were created to exclude and exploit. Blending history with human drama, Chomsky explores what it means to be undocumented in a legal, social, economic and historical context.

Chomsky is a professor of History and Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Studies at Salem State University and is the author of the 2007 book, "*They Take Our Jobs!*" and *Other Myths About Immigration*. This latest book explains why in spite of their critical value to the economy, so many potential workers have been declared illegal and are being turned away at the southern border.

Once illegal, workers who make it across the border are subject to discrimination, poor wages and work conditions, fraud, and even violent crimes - all things that they dare not report. And yet (the author argues), the concept of illegality is fairly new and is often based on prejudice and politics.

Join us for a lively discussion!

#### UPCOMING WORKS

##### **July 21: The Village Effect, Susan Pinker, 2014**

An exploration of the powerful effects of face-to-face contact in our increasingly computer-mediated world. Pinker's witty and informative book reveals the complex picture of these interactions.

##### **August 18: Soul of a Citizen, Paul Loeb, 1999**

A book of inspiration and integrity, *Soul of a Citizen* is an antidote to the twin scourges of modern life--powerlessness and cynicism. Loeb tells moving stories of ordinary Americans who have found unexpected fulfillment in social involvement.

#### ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

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

#### Become A Member Of Our Observer Corps

Get to know your local government in a personal way! Strengthen local democracy by adding "sunlight" to the legislative process and publishing what you observe in our Commentator! You may observe your town or city board meetings you prefer. *We will guide you, so you do not need to be an expert to get started.* Call Margaret Sellers at 339-3180 with your questions.



**Best Wishes to our outgoing President, Dare Thompson, as she assumes the reins as President of the LWVNYS**

**WAY TO GO!  
YOU MAKE US SO PROUD!!**