



Commentator

November 2016

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!
2016	Check our online calendar for updates.

November		
1	5:30 PM	Materials Management (Solid Waste) Study Committee at the Main Course Restaurant (175 Main Street, New Paltz, NY 12561). For more information, contact Kathy OConnor at (845) 757-2247 or oconnor.kraye@gmail.com .
5	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Thriving at Home (in Rhinebeck) At the Rhinebeck High School (45 N Park Rd, Rhinebeck, NY 12572) on November 5th, approximately 30 organizations and services will have tables explaining what they can offer elder citizens in the area. Anne Needham, Kathy OConnor and possibly Shirley Kobran, will host the LWVMHR table. We hope to kindle both voter awareness as well as materials management topics.
8	POLLS OPEN AT 6 AM - CLOSE AT 9 PM	Election Day
10	4:00-6:00 PM	Board Meeting at Jacki Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Rd, Hurley, NY 12443.
19	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	LWV Harvest Breakfast Brunch at Deisings Bakery, 111 North Front St., Kingston. Bring a friend. Program discussion: see flyer inside.
21	8:30-9:00 AM	Kingston Community Radio, WGHQ 920 AM LWV On Air. Go to http://www.mykcr.org to listen on your computer. Call 845-331-9255 to ask a question or make a comment.

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

One vote DOES matter

VOTE!

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Prez Says

Driving across Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, South Dakota, Montana and now Idaho, I'm overwhelmed with the quantity of farm land, farm products, and farm related industry. This vast complex of production, harvesting, transportation and processing employ millions of people; provide food for our country, ethanol for our fuel, and exports to the rest of the world.

Yet everywhere I drove, I saw signs for Trump and none for Hillary. I decided to look at the Democratic National Platform with regards to agriculture, and found support for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development program, increasing funding for the Farmers Market Promotion Program and Local Food Promotion Program, but no positions on reform of the current crop insurance system to support family farms.

By comparison the Republican Platform explicitly supports the farming sector and associated businesses and opposes government regulation of animal treatment, opposes mandatory labeling of genetically modified food, and swift passage of the Farm Bill so that farmers are not exposed to risk for an extended period of time.

The LWVUS position on federal agriculture policies says in part that the League believes the government should provide financial support for agriculture that includes disaster assistance, crop insurance, need-based loans, and incentives to adopt best management practices. Support should be extended to specialty crops, such as fruits, vegetables and nuts, to new production methods, such as organic, hydroponic, and urban practices, and to farms that supply local and regional markets.

The League also supports more informative and standardized definitions on product labeling, and consumer education about labeling of foods developed using any new technology such as genetic engineering and nanotechnology.

As is often the case, we are not in agreement with either party, but hold our own, well thought out and balanced position. We care about both the producers of the food, the consumers, and the environment. Our position was created by input from 243 state and local leagues. Once again I feel amazed and honored to be part of this organization.

Jolanda Jansen

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

Membership News**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Come be a part of the preparation for the NY State League of Women Voters' celebration of its 100th anniversary in 2019! The state League is asking local Leagues to go thru their old files and tweak their memories to update the State League history book.

It'll be more fun to do this together, so I'm inviting you to come to my house on Sunday, November 20 at 2 pm and to bring your boxes, clippings and memories with you to share. We'll have a cuppa and some goodies and tell some old stories!

This is a good time to "de-clutter" and help the League at the same time! RSVP to echarwat@yahoo.com or call 462-7061. Bring anyone whom I may have missed in this invitation who was involved in the Dutchess League.

Ellie Charwat

NOTICE: BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The Board of Directors will submit revised Bylaws at the next general membership meeting to be held at Deisings's Bakery and Restaurant on November 19th (*See Meeting Notice below*).

The primary purpose of the amendments is to provide for the position of "Co-President" and define the duties and authority of the office.

Additionally, in keeping with recent LWVUS bylaws changes, the word "citizens" would be changed to "persons" and the age for League voting would be lowered to 16.

A draft of the amendments is included at the end of this issue and can be viewed or downloaded from:
http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/PROPOSED_AMENDMENTS_TO_THE_BYLAWS_-2016.pdf

VOTER SERVICE

Moderating Guidelines

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

What Voter Service has done and What We're Doing

FIXING ALBANY (for the people)!

NYS LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES UPDATE STUDY

On Tuesday, October 18, we met at Deisings's Bakery and Restaurant to begin the process of advising the LWVNYS about how to update our 2015 position about the NYS Legislature. Hopefully we will also look at the NYS Constitution, Campaign Financing, Redistricting, and anything else that will help the Legislature get out of its current last place. It has been ranked by the Center for Public Integrity as being the most corrupt state legislature in the country with the most legislators forced out of office for ethical or criminal offenses.

We looked at Outside Income, Term Lengths for State Legislators and Term Lengths for Leadership and Committee Chairs.

Results

These topics were discussed and the meeting is reported to LWVNYS by the general consensus, or lack of it, in the group, not by number of votes. There was a **quorum** of 15 members in attendance at the meeting.

Outside Income

1. There should be limits on outside income.
2. Some felt that outside income should be prohibited, others that the federal model of limiting outside income to a percentage of base salary. Most felt that the salary should be the same throughout the State, but some felt that NYC and suburbs should have higher pay than upstate.

Term Lengths

1. The terms for members of both houses should be **four years** and should be **staggered**; with half of the members up for election every other year was strongly agreed. Possibilities of 2-4-4 year terms to adjust for the census was thought to be too confusing for the general public and not necessary to maintaining effective representation.
2. All Legislative Leaders and Committee Chairs should serve no more than 8 years in any one position. Many thought that they could take on another position right away, or return to the same position after about 2 years. Others favored *life-time* limits.
3. There was agreement that lulus for leaders and committee chairs should continue.

Margaret Sellers

General Election Deadlines

FOR GENERAL ELECTION Absentee Ballot deadlines

Date	Deadline Information
Nov. 1	Last day to postmark an application or letter of application by mail for an absentee ballot.
Nov. 7	Last day to apply IN-PERSON for absentee ballot.
Nov. 7	Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by the local board of elections no later than Nov. 15th. Military Voter Ballots must be received no later than Nov. 21st.
Nov. 8	Last day to deliver ballot IN-PERSON to the local board of elections (by someone other than the voter).

Election Day

is around the corner and our league has served the community well in its effort to sign up individuals to register to vote, informing citizens by distributing 3,000 voter guides, and working to get candidates to debate in our area. While we are confident that our elections are above board, there are obvious stumbling blocks in New York State with our cumbersome and restrictive voting laws. Coupled with these concerns, New Yorkers have become disaffected and disillusioned because of our record of corruption in our state legislature. After November 8th, it's a new day and a new beginning. What can we do to affect change? Help us answer that question at our next general meeting on November 19. Details about this meeting are in this Commentator. Bring your ideas and appetite! Hope to see you there.

Jean McGarry

STUDY AND ADVOCACY

Materials Management Committee

The Committee was inspired by the film "Just Eat It," which was shown at BackStage Productions in Kingston October 4th. Rich Schiafo organized that event, and we thank him for that.

Rich (of the Hudson Valley Regional Council) also, along with Dutchess Outreach and others, was the moving force behind the event focusing awareness of Food Waste, held on the Walkway Over the Hudson on October 8th. Our Materials Management tent was positioned next to that from NYSPPPI (New York State Pollution Prevention Institute), which helped fund the event. We made some good connections with that group, and are hopeful that they will significantly bolster our efforts in getting Paint Stewardship legislation passed in New York State.

Following up on that topic, we received communication from both the Executive Director of PaintCare, and the Government Counsel for the American Coatings Association, apprising us of their efforts regarding Paint Stewardship legislation in NYS. Appears we have to go through another cycle of legislation, following the November election. We will hope that Senator O'Mara's bill, along with Assemblyman Stirpe's, will be reintroduced and breathe new air. We've been encouraged to do all we can to get the Governor's support behind this legislation, as well as that of Assemblyman Steve Englebright (District 4), who's Chair of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation.

Last week, I had the good fortune to visit Bard College's composting facility. They retrieve 2600 pounds of material each day from their dining room. A simple, but very effective operation.

On November 5th, we will have a table at an event in Rhinebeck called "Thriving at Home." Present will be a number of organizations and services to offer opportunities for seniors. This event will be held in the Rhinebeck H.S. 9 a.m. to 12:30.

Hope you continue to read TRASH FEST Ulster's postings on Facebook. Our Margot Becker continues to put out very relevant, updated information regarding Materials Management.

Thank you all for your continued interest in making this a more viable, sustainable planet for generations to come.

(Submitted by *Kathy O'Connor*)

Just Eat It- A Food Waste Movie-reviewed by Ajamu Ayinde

On October 4, 2016 there was a screening of Just Eat It- A Food Waste Movie, held in downtown Kingston, NY at BSP. The movie's goal is to bring greater awareness to the tremendous amount of food waste that is generated in industrialized nations each year. The Materials Management Committee of the League of Women Voters-Mid Hudson Region is concerned about food waste and several committee members attended the screening following our monthly meeting. Just Eat It was initially released in Canada in the spring of 2014. The director, Grant Baldwin and its producer, Jenny Rustemeyer also appear in the film as protagonists. While the film was made in Canada, it included many statistics govern the American food industry. The premise of the film is that so much food is wasted in industrialized nations like the US and Canada that one could hypothetically live off of it for six months. This is what they did. They were, however, able to eat at the homes of friends or family members.

The food that was being wasted comes in three forms. The first area of waste is in the farming phase. A significant portion, (25%) of all the food that is grown is discarded before it makes it to market. The reason is largely cosmetic. If a carrot is not absolutely straight or an apple is not picture perfect they will be composted back into the soil. There are religious groups that make a point of collecting these gleanings and making them

available to needy people.

The second area of food waste is in the wholesale stage. The filmmakers repeatedly discovered dumpsters filled with huge amounts of food that were unopened, unexpired and perfectly suitable for consumption. Supermarkets are also bound by the same cosmetic standard as the farms. They realize consumers are finicky and will not buy food that is not attractive visually. For example, at farm stands at the end of the sale day many fruits and vegetables will be leftover due to a slight imperfection. In many cases the filmmaker were able to get these items for free or at a reduced price. The filmmakers actually spent about \$250 on food for the entire six months and gained ten pounds!

The third area where the food waste happens is at the consumer level. Many consumers will discard food needlessly because it has reached the "sell by" date. Just because it has reached this date doesn't mean it is spoiled, it just may not be as fresh as it was. It remains perfectly healthy and edible. Curiously, many Americans have full fridges yet they will order takeout or buy more food at the store because they do not want to eat the same meal two nights in a row. This documentary was made by Peg Leg Films in partnership with British Columbia's Knowledge Network, runs approximately 75 minutes. Just Eat is available to see online through iTunes, YouTube and Amazon video for \$3.99

Book Club

If you have not been to the book group, do try to come. We have great meetings at 1:45 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at Enzo's on Boices Lane. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 15 where we will be discussing "We Gon' Be Alright: Notes on Race and Resegregation" by Jeff Chang. Other books for the future are "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande, and "David and Goliath" by Malcolm Gladwell.

Shirley Kobran was delighted that we liked her selection of "Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown. It is about the Washington University crew boat that went to "Hitler's" Olympics and took gold for the USA. It follows the life of one of the boys from early childhood with multiple abandonments by family, through college, romance and becoming a winning boat team member. It is woven in with the history and feelings of the times, the Great Depression, the build up to WWII in Germany, and the popular growth of Hitler, showing various interconnections, which are also important today to the work of the LWV... how society and government effect people's lives. It also describes the training of the crew in detail and how they learn to work together effectively, which is another lesson for groups such as ours. Part of the secret is being aware of the feelings and actions of the other people in the group and coordinating your actions to "fit" theirs.

Margaret Sellers

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>

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Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Oct. 17, 2016, 6:35 PM – 8:17 PM

Committee Members: Kevin A. Roberts, Chairman, David B. Donaldson, Deputy Chairman, Richard A. Parete, Hector S. Rodriguez, Carl Belfiglio

Other Legislators: Ken Ronk, Legislature Chairman (voting), Jennifer Schwartz Berky, Tracey Bartels, John Parete

Other: Nicholas Pascale, Esq., Legislative Counsel, Christopher Ragucci, Esq., Minority Counsel

Meeting called to order by Chairman Kevin Roberts.

Minutes from Sept. 19, 2016 meeting approved, as amended.

These observer notes focus on proposed resolutions:

Proposed Resolution No. 291 regarding a public hearing on Nov. 15 on finance reform was approved.

Proposed Resolution No. 391 regarding a public hearing of a proposed local law for the regulation of pet sellers postponed following a discussion of issues and concerns.

Proposed Resolution No. 390 regarding a public hearing of a proposed law to limit gifts that county officers and employees may receive. Approved, as amended.

Proposed Resolution No. 411, Resolution No. 412 and Resolution No.448 regarding public hearings on proposed local laws for the Ulster County Human Rights Commission and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity were postponed pending setting dates.

Proposed Resolutions No. 424 regarding setting a public hearing on a proposed local law on cyber-bulling on Nov. 15 was approved, as amended, following an extensive discussion with Robert Fisher, Esq., Assistant County Attorney, Kristin Gumaer, Esq., Assistant County Attorney, and Dr. Robert Beyer, Clinical Psychologist.

Proposed Resolution No. 425 condemning violence and hate speech and expressing solidarity with Muslims and all those targeted for their ethnicity, race or religion was postponed following a difficult discussion with Legislator Jennifer Schwartz Berky, one of the sponsors.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corps, 10-28-16

**Economic
Development,
Tourism, Housing,
Planning & Transit
Committee**

Oct. 3, 2016, 6:00 PM – 6:32 PM

Committee Members:

James F. Maloney, Chairman, Hector S. Rodriguez, Deputy Chairman, Ron G. Lapp, Herbert Litts III, Mary Beth Maio, Jennifer Schwartz Berky, James Delaune

Meeting called to Order by Chairman James Maloney.

Minutes of Sept. 6, 2016 meetings approved.

Proposed resolutions included resolutions pertaining to the Department of Planning, Department of Information Services and Department of Public Transportation were approved following discussion with department representatives and county planners.

Proposed **Resolution No. 426** pertaining to opposing the detrimental trade policies included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement was postponed for caucus discussions and a Special Meeting on Oct. 13, 2016.

Under **New Business**, Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning, discussed the Transportation Council funding and a study.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corps, 10-28-16

Special Meeting

Chairman's Office

Oct. 13, 2016, 5:47 PM – 6:15 PM (approx.) Committee Members:

James F. Maloney, Chairman, Hector S. Rodriguez, Deputy Chairman, Ron G. Lapp, Herbert Litts III (absent), Mary Beth Maio, Jennifer Schwartz Berky, James Delaune (absent)

Other Legislators: **Manna Jo Greene, Tracey Bartels**

Meeting called to Order by Chairman James Maloney.

Resolution for Oct. 18, 2016, Regular Legislative session:

Proposed **Resolution No. 426** opposing the detrimental trade polices included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement was approved following a discussion of several topics including: the export of jobs re NAFTA and environmental protections by Legislator Greene, concern about an agreement outside the norms by Legislator Rodriguez, and concerns about dispute settlements by international bodies by Legislator Bartels. Legislator Rodriguez joined in offering the resolution. [There was no discussion of the possible local impacts on agricultural trade.]

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corps, 10-28-16

**Energy and
Environment
Committee**

Oct. 12, 2016, 6:31 PM - 8:47 PM

Committee Members: Richard A. Parete, Chairman, Tracey A. Bartels, Deputy Chairman, Jonathan Heppner, Ron G. Lapp, Jr., Mary Wawro

Other Legislator: Manna Jo Greene

Chairman Richard Parete called the meeting to order. Minutes from the Sept.12, 2016 meeting were approved. These observer notes focus on a report, two resolutions, new business and old business:

Resource Recovery Agency Report – Tim Rose, Executive Director: Mr. Rose addressed the proposed budget. The budget is to be finalized on October. Single-stream recycling continues to be a concern. Plastic bag ideas were discussed.

Proposed resolutions included:

Proposed Resolution No. 403 authorizing a supplement agreement with the City of New York and west of Hudson stakeholders regarding flood buyout program was approved following a discussion by Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive, and Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Department of Environment.

Under Old Business, Plastic Bag Legislation, for discussion was a draft resolution of a local law regulating the use of plastic carryout bags and recyclable paper carryout bags and promoting the use of reusable bags was introduced by Legislator Tracey Bartels. The topics discussed included: what facilities are to be covered, bands v. fees (controversial), rebates (not liked) and a phase-in plan. Tom Konrad, Ph.D., Chair, Marletown Environmental Conservation Commission and Dave Halderman of the Environmental Management Council attended the meeting and participated in the discussion.

Climate Smart Committee – Legislator Manna Jo Greene discussed the Clean Energy Community Funding and provided a handout.

Solid Waste Management Disposal Improvement Commission – Brief Update by Legislator Greene: the committee is preparing a document for review and input by other organizations, and a report is expected in Dec.

Environmental Management Council – Dave Halderman of the EMC discussed information to the towns and discussions with them and educational initiatives.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corps, 10-28-16

UC Board of Health

The October meeting was cancelled due to religious holiday

Ulster County Legislative Committee on Public Health and Social Services

The committee was convened by Chairman Legislator Lopez at 6:00 PM on 10-3-2016 and adjourned at 6:25.

Present: Lopez, Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner, Roberts

Others: Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell, Nettie Tomshaw, secretary to the committee

Following the call to order, the first order of business was approval of the September 7, 2016 meeting. Approved.

The committee then addressed a memorializing Resolution no. 418: Legislator Belfiglio reviewed the circumstances to having this repeated: as a new member of the New York State Association of Counties he had not been aware that this resolution to better serve those individuals with Dyslexia had to be approved first by the local county legislature first before NYSAC could address it. If the resolution is approved at the October, 2016 meeting of the UC Legislature then he will present the resolution to NYSAC for approval in February. The local committee agreed to add its name to the memorializing resolution and in support of it and approved it thereafter.

Resolution #419: While everyone supports people getting flu shots, the county has arranged to provide onsite flu shots at various county sites as appropriate, i.e. County Office Building, DSS, Sheriff's department, as well as the benefit fairs that will take place in UC. Cost: County apparently put such out to bid; best response \$30 per; 10 individuals minimum number to be served at a time without requiring payment for those who don't show up. \$8,997.00 cost. Passed

Resolution #422 dealt with approving appointment of Karla Peterson to complete term of Rose Jambrone to the Community Services Board for the period 11/1/16 -12/31/16; and Resolution #423 dealt with approving the Community Service Board's recommendation that Karla Peterson be appointed to the PW/DD subcommittee of the Community Service Board for the same period of time as indicated in the previous resolution. Both passed

Resolution # 429: This resolution allows for the cost of adding a 4th child to the contract previously approved. The cost was \$10,000 (36% Federal, 29% State, and 15% County). Passed

Resolution #430: A new contract to transition children from foster care back into the community. It encourages those 18-21 to stay in the system, and allows the county to further help them to move on with their lives. Cost over 3 years: 2016/2017/2018 \$3 million (36: Federal, 29% State, 35% County) Passed.

New Business: There was some discussion on how potential patients for rehab at nursing homes or rehab centers are possibly handled but no motion to vote on.

Old Business: none

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

UC Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors

Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting of the UC Town Supervisors and Mayors did not have an official meeting. However, those who were present discussed various topics and heard reports which had been scheduled previously. There were no motions or decisions made as a result. The discussion time: 8:36-9:46.

President, T/Supervisor Chipman began the discussion by acknowledging the presence of UC Comptroller Elliott Auerbach. Mr. Auerbach commented on the topic Airbnb referencing the situation with bed and breakfast. He noted there are 955 such establishments in Ulster County, concentrated in the Woodstock and New Paltz areas; with 20,000 visitors who came, who have stayed about 2.5 days during their visit, during the last year. This has brought about \$11 million dollars into Ulster County. His office has urged and recommended that the

UC Legislature pass legislation to create a 2% tax with a portion of what is collected to be turned over to the towns to handle such issues related to the Airbnb industry. Note: apparently the UC Legislature has yet to pass such legislation.

The second topic Mr. Auerbach referenced was the recent proposal made by County Executive Michael Hein to cut the Comptroller's staff of 7 by 25%, which Mr. Auerbach stated would be a real problem given the extensive work that his staff is expected to perform. During the year so far the staff has handled \$180 million dollars in its review work.

The next commentary was from Jennifer Metzger, a T/Rosendale councilwoman and a representative of the Mid-Hudson Construction Light group...Citizens for Local Power. She updated the attendees with respects to the progress made regarding LED street lighting; changes in the public services law to make it easier to purchase such lighting; to require utilities to release information on what costs would be.

Judith Karpova of Global Dwellings Energy Audits then spoke to the group. She explained that the audits involved examining municipality homes and buildings from an energy efficiency standpoint. This process involved examining private homes as well as municipal buildings. (showed group a "radar gun" used in the process), talking with the people who actually use the buildings, and presenting a report indicating what would need to be done for safety purposes, predictions, costs involved. The next step would then be up to the municipality to address taking into consideration health, safety, comfort and of course cost to the tax payer and climate change.

Mr. Chipman advised the group that the report on Solid Waste Management would be ready for the next meeting.

There was time devoted to budget concerns as it applied to the individual towns. There were various aspects commented on:

- the tax cap and how it impinges on the towns' ability to develop its budget particularly given the increases in minimum wage that has been proposed and the increased costs for health insurance;
- Workers Compensation Program costs; and
- how the amount in general funds is affected.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp





The League of Women Voters®

Mid-Hudson Region



Come One, Come All

Harvest *Breakfast* Brunch

When: November 19, 2016

Where: Deising Bakery

111 North Front St.

Kingston, NY

Time: 10am to 12pm

Join us for lively discussion on

LWV proposals

— FREE —



Bring a Friend!

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS of
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the MID-HUDSON REGION
ADOPTED MAY 2012 TO BE PRESENTED THE VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING
AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region, referred to hereinafter as the LWVMHR or the League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

Article II Purpose and Policy

Section 1 Purposes: The purposes of the LWVMHR are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of ~~citizens~~ **persons** in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2 Policy: The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Article III Membership

Section 1 Eligibility: Any ~~citizen~~ **person** who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2 Types of Membership: The membership of LWVMHR shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

- a. Voting members shall be persons at least 16 years of age who have been enrolled in this local League.
- b. Associate members shall be all other members who have been enrolled in this local League.

Article IV Board of Directors

Section 1 The Board of Directors shall consist of the League officers (President **or two co-presidents**, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) and at least eight and no more than twelve directors elected from the voting members.

Section 2 The officers of the local League shall be elected for a term of two years; the directors shall be elected for a term of two years.

Section 3 All members of the Board of Directors shall serve for the length of the term they are elected to or until the time of the next annual meeting.

Section 4 No person shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors without being a voting member enrolled in this League.

Section 5 Should a vacancy other than the Presidency occur on the Board of Directors, the President **or co-presidents** shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, appoint a replacement until the time of the next annual meeting. **Should a co-president resign, the vice-president will serve as co-president until the next annual meeting**

Section 6 The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program adopted by the national convention, by the state convention, and by the membership at the annual meeting.

Section 7 There shall be at least eight regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President or **co-presidents** may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon written request of five members of the Board of Directors.

Section 8 A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of its members.

Section 9 Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Article V Officers

Section 1 The officers of the LWVMHR shall be a President **or two co-presidents**, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at the annual meeting and take office immediately. The Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected for two-year terms in odd numbered years. The President **or co-presidents** and Secretary shall be elected for two year terms in even-numbered years. If an officer resigns, a replacement may be elected for a term of one year to maintain the election schedule.

Section 2 The President or co-presidents:

- a. shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of President;
- b. shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors;
- c. shall, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes;
- d. shall have the power to appoint to fill vacancies with the approval of the Board of Directors;
- e. shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee;
- f. may not be a member of the Nominating Committee; and
- g. shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 The Vice-President:

- a. shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President or **co-presidents**;
- b. shall assume the office of President until the next annual meeting in the event of the President's resignation or disability;
- c. **shall assume the office of co-president if a co-president resigns** and
- d. shall receive additional duties at the direction of the President and/or the Board of Directors.

Section 4 The Secretary:

- a. shall keep minutes of all business meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors;
- b. shall notify all officers and directors of their election;
- c. shall sign, with the President or **co-presidents**, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board; and
- d. shall perform such other duties as the President **or co-presidents** and Board shall direct.

Section 5 The Treasurer:

- a. shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office;
- b. shall arrange for an annual audit of the books;
- c. shall at the direction of the Board, maintain deposits in authorized financial institutions;
- d. shall serve ex officio on a committee to prepare an annual budget for Board approval, but not as chairman; and
- e. shall report financial status against the budget to the board.

Section 6 Directors:

- a. shall ensure that voter registration and education are carried out;
- b. shall provide for candidates' meetings and debates on request;
- c. shall oversee advocacy by the local League;
- d. shall perform strategic planning for the future of the LWVMHR;
- e. shall provide for membership development and fund-raising;
- f. shall communicate League positions to the media and public; and
- g. shall perform any duties assigned by the President, **co-presidents**, and/or Board of Directors.

Article VI Financial Administration

Section 1 The fiscal year of the LWVMHR shall be from June 1 to May 31.

Section 2 The amount of annual dues shall be determined by vote of the general membership at the annual meeting. Notification of a proposed change in annual dues shall be mailed to members at least three weeks prior to the annual meeting in conjunction with the proposed budget. Annual dues shall be contracted and paid by July 1 or may be paid upon arrangement with the League treasurer.

Section 3 Any enrolled member whose dues are not paid by December 31 shall be dropped from the rolls.

Section 4 A Development Committee established by the Board shall be responsible for conducting the annual Finance Drive and other fund-raising activities.

Section 5 In the event of the dissolution of the LWVMHR, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVMHR shall be paid to the LWV of New York after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal or mixed that may at the time be owned or under the control of the LWVMHR shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposes as the board in its absolute discretion may designate.

Article VII Meetings

Section 1 There shall be at least four general meetings of the membership each year, one of which shall be the annual meeting. The time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 The annual meeting shall:

- a. adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- b. elect officers, directors, and members of the Nominating Committee;
- c. adopt an adequate budget; and
- d. transact such other business as may be properly brought before it.

Section 3 Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum at all general, annual, and consensus-meetings of the LWVMHR.

Article VIII Nominations and Elections

Section 1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members:

- a. three of whom shall be appointed by the current nominating committee and elected at the annual meeting;
- b. two of whom shall be appointed from the Board of Directors, by the Board of Directors at its next meeting;
- c. the chairperson of the new nominating committee shall be elected by the new nominating committee within one month following the first Board of Directors meeting in the new year and shall be a non-Board member of the committee; and
- d. any vacancy occurring in the nominating committee shall be filled by appointment by the President **or co-presidents** with the approval of the Board of Directors until the next annual meeting.

Section 2 The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members at least three weeks before the date of the annual meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the annual meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member providing the consent of the nominee has been secured.

Section 3 The election shall be by ballot, except that if there is only one nominee for an office, voting shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. Only those voting members who are enrolled shall be permitted to vote at the annual meeting.

Article IX Program

Section 1 Authorization: The governmental principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Section 2 Program: The program shall consist of:

- a. action to protect the right to vote of every citizen and
- b. those local governmental issues chosen for concrete study and action.

Section 3 Action by the annual meeting: The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedure:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to all members at least three weeks before the annual meeting.
- c. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program as presented to the annual meeting by the Board of Directors.
- d. Recommendations for program submitted by voting members two months prior to the annual meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the annual meeting provided that:
 1. the annual meeting order consideration by a majority vote, and
 2. the annual meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote.

Section 4 Changes in the program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made, provided that:

- a. information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and
- b. final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting

Section 5 Member action: Members may act in the name of the LWVMHR only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors.

Article X Study Committees

Section 1 Each of the study committees shall be created as a result of the adoption of the annual program at the national, state and local levels and shall have a chairperson appointed by the President or co-presidents with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 The study committee chairpersons will be responsible for the direction and progress of their individual committees, reporting regularly to the Board of Directors.

Article XI National Convention, State Convention, and Council

Section 1 National Convention. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the National office shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted to LWVMHR under the provision of the Bylaws of LWVUS.

Section 2 State Convention. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the State office shall select delegates to that convention In the number allotted to LWVMHR under the provisions of the bylaws of LWVNYS..

Section 3 State Council. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the State office shall select delegates to the Council In the number allotted to LWVMHR under the provisions of the bylaws of LWVNYS.

Article XII Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

Article XIII Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a regular membership meeting provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least three weeks in advance of the meeting.

Standing rules:

1. Persons joining the League on or after February 1st will be members through the following League year.

History of the Bylaws:

Adopted in May, 2007 by vote at the annual meeting.

Amended and adopted by vote at the annual meeting May 24, 2012

Amended draft July 2016.
