



# Commentator

NOVEMBER 2012

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action*

*The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.*

*President:  
 Dare Thompson  
[darethompson@gmail.com](mailto:darethompson@gmail.com)  
 (845) 236-3074*

*Newsletter:  
 Jim McGarry  
[lwvmhr@hvc.rr.com](mailto:lwvmhr@hvc.rr.com)  
 845-336-0304*

*Membership:  
 Betty Chin  
[Blc2003@hotmail.com](mailto:Blc2003@hotmail.com)  
 845-331-2572*

## CALENDAR

2012		
OCTOBER		
2	Wed. 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting, home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
30		Last day to postmark an application or letter of application by mail for an absentee ballot
NOVEMBER		
		Last day to apply IN-PERSON for absentee ballot.
5		Last day to postmark ballot. Ballot must be received by the board of elections no later than November 13. Military Voter Ballots must be received no later than November 19th.
6		<b>ELECTION DAY</b> Last day to deliver ballot IN-PERSON to the local board of elections (by someone other than the voter).
7	WED. 7:15 pm	LWVMHR Board Meeting, home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
8	Thurs . 2 pm	Resource Development Committee meeting. Call 845-340-2003 to confirm time and location and for directions.
13	Tues. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee, Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, <a href="mailto:packback56@yahoo.com">packback56@yahoo.com</a>
14	Wed. 10 am	Dutchess Shared Services Committee meeting, home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Rd., Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, <a href="mailto:echarwat@yahoo.com">echarwat@yahoo.com</a>
16		Ulster County Naturalization Ceremony at the Ulster County Courthouse in Kingston. Contact Jean McGarry – 336-6622 or <a href="mailto:jfmcg@hvc.rr.com">jfmcg@hvc.rr.com</a> if you are interested in participating.

Check our Calendar on-line at

<http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>

MEMBERS: Need a ride to a meeting? Want to car-pool?

Contact: Dare Thompson: [darethompson@gmail.com](mailto:darethompson@gmail.com)

(845) 236-3074

## Prez Sez...

This Commentator is chock full of evidence of our on-going work on **solid waste management** and on the **revisions to the Ulster County Charter**, which we encourage voters to support. The **League phone** has logged a lot of calls from voters eager to register, get absentee ballots or otherwise make sure their voice is heard on November 6. And Jean McGarry has organized a great number of Ulster Co. **voter registration** events supported by efforts by Ellie Charwat in Dutchess, while Cindy Bell has been helping with candidate events and getting **Facts for Voters** distributed in both counties.

Meanwhile we were busily sending out invitations and gathering auction items for our **Tea and Trash Party** on October 14th. What a party it turned out to be - well worth all the work! It was a joy to see our "King and Queen of Trash," Congressman **Maurice Hinchey** and **Shirley Kobran**, having such a good time, watch the reunions of recycling pioneers from several decades, and enjoy Wiltwyck Golf Club's terrific "high tea" treats.

In addition to hearing **Manna Jo Greene** and **Emilie Hauser** introduce their fellow pioneers, we heard not only from the King and Queen but also from **Barbara Bartoletti**, LWVNYS legislative director, and **Steve Changaris**, who represented our top "emerald" sponsor, the **National Solid Wastes Management Association** (the trash collection folks). Steve knows that our mission (to serve the public good) and his haulers' mission (a healthy bottom line) can conflict, but he enjoys engaging with us and he's been a helpful source of information during the critical debate going on over Ulster County's Resource Recovery Agency. He thanked Congressman Hinchey for improving the public image of trash collectors by helping weed out the "bad apples."

Two "jade" sponsors were also related to the theme. **Waste Management** donated a whole year of curbside service to our silent auction and **Herzog's** donated a large tumbling composter. (When was the last time you saw items like these in a silent auction!) **MAC Fitness**, which gave 2 \$90 certificates, was also a jade sponsor.

Our auction also included many treasures donated by our own members including 6 Waterford glasses given by **Lee Ridgway** and a Day at the LOB in Albany donated by **Barbara Bartoletti** and other donations by Cindy Bell, Marilyn Dillon, Emilie Hauser, Jolanda Jansen, Cindy Lanzetta, Shirley Kobran, Jean and Jim McGarry, Irene McInnis, Karen Miller, Anne Needham, Lee Ridgway, Renee Sachs, Jean Semiloff, the Stickley Family, and Dorothy Winrow.

We also thank the following businesses for generous donations - please thank them when you patronize them!

Adams Fairacre Farms, Egg's Nest, Hurley Mountain Inn, MAC Fitness, Merchant Wine & Liquor, Mohonk Mountain House, Red Brick Tavern, Rosendale Café, Roudigan's, Signature Fitness, and Stoutridge Vineyards.

If you'd like to view the slide show prepared by Jolanda Jansen and Candi Sterling a PDF version can be found at: [http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/Tea\\_and\\_Trash\\_Party\\_Slide\\_Show\\_Presentation.pdf](http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/Tea_and_Trash_Party_Slide_Show_Presentation.pdf)

We give special thanks to all who worked on the event (too many to mention), especially **Jolanda Jansen, Irene McInnis, Anne Needham, Esther Stickley, and Dorothy Winrow**. All in all, this delightful and educational (!) event raised about **\$3000**. I trust you know we will spend it carefully to serve Dutchess and Ulster citizens. Thanks to all!

PS - Barb Bartoletti will back in late November or early December for a discussion of campaign finance reform here in New York. We'll be working with the Saugerties LWV on this. Watch for details.

### *Dare*



Barbara Bartoletti &  
Steve Changaris



Shirley Kobran &  
Congressman Maurice Hinchey

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

*Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting and Annual Report, July Planning Meeting Minutes, the revised Bylaws, and the monthly Board meeting minutes can be found at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Committees.html>*

**VOTER SERVICE**

**Voter Registration**

Thank you to all League members, AAUW and Sally Colclough of the Saugerties League for all their voter registration efforts. No doubt there are many individuals who are now eligible to vote just because of our visibility in the community. Equally gratifying is that because of our presence, besides registering well over one-hundred citizens and distributing voter registration cards to many others, a number of residents are better informed about the voting process. Next step: Remind your relatives, neighbors, and friends to get to the polls November 6.

Jean McGarry

**Judicial Electronic Voter Guide**

A Judicial Electronic Voter Guide, created by the NYS Court system is available at <http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/2012/> and has been posted at <http://www.courts.state.ny.us/home.htm> on the Unified Court System website

**Get Out The Vote**

LWVNYS is pleased to share a Public Service Announcement encouraging people to vote that was created by a Tompkins County LWV member (and Ithaca College student), Rhiannon Youngbauer. It is posted on the state League website and facebook page, and we encourage you to share it with as many members and others as possible. LWVNYS is also sending it to some TV media in hopes that they will air it as a PSA. If you have a local station who you think might air the PSA, just let us know. Here is the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUOsrjWZUUU&feature=youtu.be>

**Vote411.org**

*Be sure to visit <http://www.VOTE411.org> and <http://lwvny.org/> as well as our own page at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/elections.html> for national, state, and local information to help you with nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information.*

**LWVNY ELECTRONIC VOTERS GUIDE IS NOW LIVE!**

*The League of Women Voters of New York (League) has announced that its electronic voters guide, through Vote411.org, is now live with information on the candidates in the Nov. 6 general election.*

*VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election-related information, providing nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>An electronic voters guide with information provided by candidates</i></li> <li>• <i>Absentee ballot information</i></li> <li>• <i>Ballot proposition information</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Election dates</i></li> <li>• <i>ID requirements</i></li> <li>• <i>Military and Overseas Voting</i></li> <li>• <i>Polling place locations</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Registration deadlines</i></li> <li>• <i>Voter qualifications</i></li> <li>• <i>Voter registration forms</i></li> <li>• <i>Voting machines</i></li> </ul>
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*It can be accessed online through the League's website at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) in an easy-to-use electronic format. Citizens can compare candidate information and print a customized sample ballot prior to election day.*

*Candidates who have not submitted their information are listed with "Candidate has not responded."*

*The League is a nonpartisan political membership organization, open to men and women, that 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. To learn more about the League or to link to Vote411, visit <http://www.lwvny.org/>.*

**Moderating Guidelines**

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

**Ulster County  
Charter  
Revision****ULSTER VOTERS URGED TO VOTE "YES" on the REVISIONS TO THE COUNTY CHARTER**

**The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region encourages Ulster County voters on November 6 to VOTE YES on the following ballot issue:** "Shall the amendments to the Ulster County Charter approved as Proposed Local Law No. 11 of Ulster County for 2012 be adopted and become part of the Ulster County Charter?"

This issue may be easy to miss on your ballot, so please look for it!

**Why is the Charter being revised?**

The Ulster County Charter, was adopted in 2006, provided for a County Executive, a County Comptroller, and a Reapportionment Commission (intended to be "independent" but found by the Court to be subject to Legislative action), and many other improvements to County government. It also contained language requiring the Charter to be reviewed by an independent Commission in five years so that any aspects that were not working well could be improved.

**What changes are being recommended?**

The Commission's proposals are embodied in Ulster County's Proposed Local Law No. 11. As its summary states, the Law:

- 1) Provides for an independent redistricting of County Legislative Districts by the Ulster County Commission on Reapportionment subject to a permissive referendum;
- 2) Clarifies and/or modifies the powers and duties of the Ulster County Legislature regarding: a) labor contracts; b) subpoena powers; c) appropriation of funds for an independent auditor; and d) the creation of an auditing committee to select an independent auditor;
- 3) Clarifies and modifies the appointment powers of the County Executive and the procedure for confirmation by the County Legislature;
- 4) Provides for the appointment of the Clerk to the Legislature, commencing in January 2014, by the County Legislature instead of the Chairman of the County Legislature;
- 5) Provides for special counsel to advise the Legislature where it deems necessary;
- 6) Provides for the appointment of a person to act, in the interim, until the next general or special election, as the Acting County Executive in the event of death, resignation or some other disability that prevents the County Executive from serving;
- 7) Provides for the County Commissioner of Finance to be the chief accounting officer of the County and for the County Comptroller to be the chief auditing officer of the County;
- 8) Clarifies the subpoena powers of the County Comptroller;
- 9) Provides for the appointment of a person to act, in the interim, until the next general election, as Acting County Comptroller in the event of a vacancy, other than expiration of a term, in that office; and
- 10) Provides for terms of office for members of the Ulster County Board of Ethics.

**Why does the League of Women Voters think these changes are important and should be supported?**

We believe that the Commission that wrote the original Charter was wise to suggest an early review of their document so that it could be improved right away. We were pleased to see that the revisions generally respect the original Charter, which we fought hard to see enacted, and which we continue to support. We observed and admired the Charter Revision Commission's transparency, careful and thorough work, and its restraint and good sense. Some of the revisions are truly needed, and County government will be less effective without them.

**Is there any organized opposition to these changes?**

To the best of our knowledge, no. The Commission's recommendations were reviewed and changed slightly by the County Legislature, and the Commission chose not to challenge their changes. The County Executive has agreed to the final recommendations. While individuals may not agree completely with all aspects of the recommendations (nor do we), there is widespread agreement that the revisions as a whole are well worth supporting.

**Where can you find out more information?**

From the Ulster County government homepage you can click on Charter Revision or use this link to go there directly: <http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/charterrevision>. You can read there the Commission's report, biographies of its members, its minutes and more.

**PLEASE FIND THE ULSTER COUNTY BALLOT ISSUE AND THEN VOTE YES ON NOVEMBER 6.**

## ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Dutchess County Shared Services Study Committee

The Dutchess County shared services committee gave a presentation to the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association at their October 2nd meeting. Diane Jablonski and Gina Klein presented folders of our fact sheets on shared services in the following areas: tax assessment, purchasing, health care, bus transportation, criminal justice, and fire districts in Dutchess County and Justice Courts and Highway Departments in Ulster County. These fact sheets are being put on the League website for public education.

A lively discussion followed about what the supervisors and mayors are already doing and questions about further initiatives. The committee will follow up with those who attended and send packets to those who didn't.

Nan Fogel and Diane Jablonski spoke at the October 15th public hearing on the proposed expansion of the Dutchess County jail urging the Criminal Justice Council to look at a regional approach to the problem of overcrowding.

The next meeting of the committee will be at the home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Road, Poughkeepsie. Call her at 845-462-7061 or email [echarwat@yahoo.com](mailto:echarwat@yahoo.com) for directions or further information. New committee members are always welcome.

Ellie Charwat

Ellie and her committee have prepared the following FAQ sheets you may find interesting

Jail Fact Sheet Version 4-1	Highway Departments in Ulster County
Fire Districts in Dutchess County	Purchasing in Dutchess County Municipalities
Justice Courts in Ulster County	Bus Transportation

You can find links to these materials at [http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action\\_Study.html#s02](http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html#s02)

### Ulster & Dutchess Counties Solid Waste

Members of the Solid Waste Committee have been very busy this past month. While not our "official" business, our members helped organize the "Tea and Trash" fundraiser for the League. This wonderful event helped us to recognize the pioneering work on recycling that was done by Shirley Kobran and Congressman Maurice Hinchey. It also gave us an opportunity to have a "reunion" of many of the unsung heroes of the environmental movement that shaped the solid waste management plans for the past 20 years.

Ulster County is at a pivotal juncture. Our Committee is reviewing the draft Solid Waste Management Plan for the next 20 years. We have also been attending the meetings of the legislature's Special Committee on the Future of the UCRRA (see additional coverage by the Observer Corps). Emilie Hauser has been especially helpful in drafting questions for the Special Committee to consider as it develops policy. It appears that the Special Committee will be offering a resolution for Ulster County to establish a law to require that all municipal solid waste generated in the County be delivered to the UC Resource Recovery Agency for disposal.

Meanwhile, an interesting experiment is being proposed in the City of Poughkeepsie. The Mayor is advocating a "Pay As You Throw" system that would encourage the reduction of solid waste. Stay tuned.

Our group meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Gateway Diner, Rt. 9W, in Highland at 5:30pm. The next meeting is November 13th. New members are always welcome!

Cindy Lanzetta, Committee Chair

### MidHudson Regional Sustainability Plan II

Meeting on July 26, 2012 - Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority

The meeting was well attended with representation from Rockland, Westchester, Ulster, Orange, Dutchess & Sullivan Counties.

Initially there was a discussion about the Consultants' website & project management tool. Engage MidHudson is to foster discussion/open to the public. Basecamp is private for the Working Group.

#### The Agenda:

- Address Materials Management Issues
- Establish Regional Objectives
- Develop Preliminary List of Projects & Initiatives
  - Review Indicators & Targets
  - Develop Preliminary Ranking Criteria for Projects

#### Materials Management Objectives:

- Reduce the amount of solid waste generated & sent to landfills
  - Reduce GHG emissions generated by materials management activities
  - Increase public access & involvement in waste reduction programs
  - Develop intra-regional solutions to reduce costs & increase job growth in the region

People from Westchester spoke about their “Love em & Leave em” project to keep yard waste organics on site. The mantra is “What is generated here has to stay here”, believing people will be more responsible about material management if it stays in their own back yard, literally.

Tim Rose & Michelle Bergkamp spoke about the pilot composting program in Ulster County. There was a lot of interest from the group. Organics in the landfill can contribute 23 times the amount of GHG than burning fuel. Composting not only gives a beneficial product, it saves GHG. It was stated that 13% of the solid waste stream is food waste, 30% is yard waste.

The reduction of GHG is a major component of the Governor’s Initiative on Sustainability. The goal is a 80% reduction by 2050.

The methodology that the Consultants want to use is to Identify a Problem, List the Indicators and Identify the Target. They asked the group’s opinion of some issues that are universal. Some ideas:

Collective marketing	Composting
Best practices in purchasing	Flow control – contractual, legislative & economic
Regional Landfill	

There was discussion about haulers, landfills and governmental agencies. The group agreed that governmental entities are more likely to “do the right thing” since they are accountable to the taxpayer.

While Solid Waste Planning Units must consider the State’s “Beyond Waste” plan, they are not bound to follow every suggestion – just prove that they examined them and why they excluded them.

The Group was given the task of writing up suggestions for projects and submitting them to the Consultants.

Rockland County made a presentation about their Agency and a group tour of the facilities was offered.

As a personal aside, the Rockland facility is amazing and the enthusiasm and knowledge of the Working Group was exciting. <http://www.rocklandrecycles.com/>

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

*Editor’s Note: The foregoing report was received too late for the August issue ... and then I forgot all about it! Apologies to all. JMcG*

Take a look at the Sustainability Plan Informational Pamphlet posted on the Orange County Department of Planning website at <http://www.orangecountygov.com/content/124/1362/10101.aspx>

And for more information visit **Engage MidHudson** at <http://www.engagemidhudson.com/>, an online platform where citizens and government of the Mid-Hudson Region share knowledge and brainstorm project ideas and initiatives that will help build a more sustainable region

## ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

### Ulster County Legislature: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Date: Oct. 15, 2012 Start Time: 6:34 p.m. Finish Time: 7:38 p.m.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 270 regarding authorizing the chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into a lease agreement with Pine Professional Center, LLC for office space to be used by the Ulster County Probation Department - Dept. of Public Work (B&G) was approved.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 271 regarding requesting appropriation of funds from the forfeiture account for the Office of the District Attorney – Amending the 2012 Ulster County Budget, was approved following a discussion of cleanup of the language and amount (Erica Guerin, Esq., Counsel to Legislature, to clarify) and of funds distribution. Legislator Peter Loughran asked about penalties and jail time for the scams.

Thomas Turco and Vic Work, Commissioners of Elections, addressed the committee: In general, no questions of the committee; the Spanish community is receiving information in Spanish and a special school – Spanish only- needs Spanish language - directed by law – not a local law and no cost to county. The website is bi-lingual.

J. J. Hanson, Budget Director, explained an initial meeting to defer cost. OK.

Tom Turco and Vic Work said there is a need for volunteers for voter registrations. Election Day inspectors are needed - 5:30 – 9:30 at \$200 + \$25.

J. J. Hanson explained charge back – volatile – to towns. \$1.1M in 2012 and \$670K in 2013 (smaller). Vic Work commented on good job.

A discussion with the Commissioner of Human Rights (re Proposed 2013 Executive Budget ) was not held because the commissioner could not attend due to illness. Legislator Ken Ronk asked about insurance costs. Some increases – Youth Bureau. Adopted.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 10-24-12

### Golden Hill Local Development Corporation (GHLDC)

The Golden Hill Local Development Corporation (GHLDC) was convened by Chairman Dare Thompson at 6:05 on 10-18-2012. At 6:10 the meeting moved to executive session.

Present: Bernholz, Hanson, Provenzano, Iannuzi, Thompson; Beckman participated via the telephone;  
Absent: Sudlow

Others attending: Crannell, DCE, Miller, attorney from Harris Beach for the GHLCE, Amy Borden assigned secretary to the GHLDC.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the September minutes. Following that the group dealt with two bills and approved both:

- payment of \$2970 for legal services from Harris Beach for August;
- mileage reimbursement of \$213 to Chairman Thompson incurred during trips to potential purchasers of GHHCC.

The next item dealt with the financing process for GHHCC. An RFI will be sent out to lenders that the county has a relationship with to develop the funds needed in preparation for the sale of the nursing home. This will be a tax-exempt bond of a short term nature. There is a need to have a minimum of two bids for that as well as for insurance, and at Mr. Bernholz's recommendation these bids are to be competitive. The GHLDC board would have to approve all of these procedures prior to paying for anything. To allow the process noted above to move forward, the GHLDC board passed a motion to approve the RFI procedure.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

*Note: In the October, 2012 issue of The Commentator a summary of the public session of the meeting of the Golden Hill Local Development Corporation can be found. During the meeting the chairman noted that a FOIL request had been filed with her regarding the bidders by Mike. No other information was provided. This observer mistakenly assumed that the Mike referred to was the County Executive Michael Hein. In fact it was Michael Novinson of the Times Herald Record. This observer apologizes for any problems this mistake may have created.*

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

*Editor's Note: The above mentioned error appeared only in the online version of the Commentator and was corrected shortly after it had been posted.*

JMcG

### Legislative Health and Personnel Committee

The UC Legislative Health and Personnel Committee was convened at 5:30 on October 1, 2012 by Legislator Robert Aiello, the Chairman.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2012 at 5:30.

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

Other Attendees: Ken Crannell, DCE, Christa Barringer, Dept. County Clerk, Erica Guerin, Legs. Counsel

Following the committee's approval of the minutes of the August meeting, the committee dealt with three resolutions: two dealt with amending the 2012 county budget to add money from the state to provide for services for mental health; one dealt with leasing of a new site for the WIC program in Saugerties. All the resolutions were approved by the committee.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a talk and a Q & A with guests David Lundquist, the CEO of the Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley and David Scarpino, the CFO of the Alliance.

Mr. Lundquist indicated at the outset that they were there to answer questions to possibly help those present to understand better what is going on. He suggested that the situation involving the two hospitals went beyond bricks and mortar, that it was a community issue.

He referenced some background points involving the two facilities (Kingston Hospital and Benedictine Hospital):

- at the time the two came together both were in financial straits;
  - during the first year, however, \$15 million in efficiencies were achieved and there were no lay offs;
  - the Berger Commission had instructed that the two hospitals would come together or one of them would close;
  - as a result of the Alliance's efforts both remained opened;
  - in March, 2009 the two came together under the Alliance;
- With the advent of the federal Health Act the hospitals financial situations has been impacted:
- health care generally has been going through an on-going change period;
  - doctors are performing more procedures in their offices;
  - people apparently are not electing to have care in hospitals;
  - there has been a reduction in co-pays and reimbursements.

The above was true in 2010 and 2011 saw more financial problems.

During the Q & A portion there were questions about the \$50 million that the state provided for this matter. How was it used?

Mr. Scarpino indicated: \$42 million went to the two hospitals of which \$18 million was used to retire existing debt and \$24 million was used for renovations; \$8 million was used to construct the Foxhall Ambulatory building.

What is the daily occupancy? There are 2 campuses with a total of 300 beds, the average daily occupancy is about 220. (If there was just one hospital, it would be expected there would be 217 beds to provide the services now being provided).

With regards to the emergency room at Kingston Hospital, an observation from one committee member was that it was felt the new one was not an improvement over the previous one.

Mr. Lundquist did indicate that Kingston Hospital had the highest performing emergency room in the region; 90% of the patients treated there wait less than 30 minutes to be seen.

One committee member suggested that the public did not have the confidence in those who are handling matters under the aegis of the Alliance given what has occurred financially in the last 4 years.

Other points provided: the Alliance must have electronic health records for patients up and running by 2013; a \$15 million investment; the Health Care Act has effected how things will be done, must be done, which at this point has resulted in the last 2 years in a 30% growth in orthopedic cases; 20% growth in vascular cases; and 10% growth in cardio cases.

Mr. Scarpino noted that all reproductive services will be offered at the Foxhall facility or the hospital within the services they can offer. This matter is still being discussed with the NYSDOH.

The biggest source of revenue is Medicare.

Several times throughout the presentation the representatives from the Alliance emphasized that the whatever is decided it is the NYSDOH which has the final say.

At this point this observer had to leave the meeting.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

## UC Board of Health

The UC Board of Health meeting was convened at 7:05 on October 1, 2012 by Chairman Dr. Tack and adjourned at 7:50.

Present: Tack, Authenreath, Hilderbrandt, Delma, Woodley

Absent: Graham

Other attendees: Director Dr. Smith, Neredia Veytia, Cheryl-Qamar

Following the approval of the September minutes, various reports were presented.

First on the agenda were those presented by the Director of the Board of Health, Dr. Carol Smith.

Initially, Dr. Smith reviewed the status of measles in UC. She reviewed the background of the determination of the first case of measles in UC. The individual in question was a student at a private school, the Waldorf School, located in New Paltz. The particular swab specimen taken from the student was analyzed by the Wadsworth Lab located in Albany. Dr. Smith noted that of the 145 children in this school, 81 were not vaccinated; and that 16 of the staff had not been vaccinated. Further, 41 of the 81 were then vaccinated, while the others, by state law, will be out of school for 21 days. Dr. Smith commented that the Department of Health received considerable help and support from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the NYSDOH, i.e. discussions with the schools, parents and general evaluation of the problem.

The next item of her report dealt with the West Nile Virus. She noted that there would be a press release during the week. This is the announcement of a case of the West Nile Virus. The individual in question had been traveling out of state and it has not been determined just where the virus would have been contracted. The NYS DOH is working with the UCDOH in this matter. One of the things that the state does is to survey those areas/sites where mosquitoes are most apt to be found.

The next part of her report dealt with employee retirements. Mrs. Veytia noted that 2 nurses who had been with the health department for 18 and 19 years each would be doing so by taking the incentive offer from the county to retire early. In turn the DOH will wait to see if they will be replaced; noted that some numbers have still not been filled. Further, the chief fiscal person is retiring after 30 years, which will be a loss given her knowledge and background; it will be difficult to replace her. She has been working with two members of the staff to prepare for the transition.

Dr. Smith then asked if the board found the meeting time of 7 satisfactory or could 6 PM be convenient. It

appeared that 6 would be acceptable, but the group decided that considering such and starting in November would be satisfactory. The group will review.

Mrs. Veytia reported on the billing process for clients who participated in the process of those who receive shots. Those who are not fully privately insured will be required to pay for their shots prior to receiving. She advised that UC is in compliance.

The Lyme Disease report was distributed. Dr. Tack complemented Mrs. Veytia for her work in dealing with the committee.

The Board voted for the second and final time on the Sanitary Code of UC. This was passed

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Ulster County  
Resource  
Recovery  
Agency  
(UCRRA)**

Notes of Observation on Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board Meeting

October 15, 2012 3:30pm, Agency Office

In attendance: Dennis Helm, Leon Smith, Catherine Nilsen, Al Teetsel, Charles Landi

Staff: Tim Rose, Sephen Wing, Timothy DeGraff, Charlie Whittaker, Michelle Bergkamp

Michelle Bergkamp gave the Recycling Report. There was a discussion about waiving the tipping fee for organics for the new Composting Project to invite more participation from haulers. Al Teetsel believes haulers are waiting to see the outcome of the proposed flow control legislation. It was agreed that the Board would revisit waiving fees at the next meeting.

Tim Rose would also like to open the Compost up to residential drop off for people who might like it.

There was discussion on partnering with the 4 corrections facilities. Michelle will investigate.

Tim DeGraff gave the Treasurers Report. Revenue from the recycling was down because of the depressed market for cardboard & newsprint.

There were two resolutions that passed. One was to set a new tipping fee for Municipalities for 2013 at \$90 a ton. The other was an amendment to allow the City of Kingston to continue with their single stream recycling and end the \$20 charge that the Agency would charge to process that material.

There was some discussion on flow control.

Tim Rose reported that the Agency has money in its budget to fence a section of the Agency's property to discourage any possible intrusion to the facility. He estimates that it cost approximately \$7,000 for 400 ft..

Tim Rose also explained that the Agency will begin to fix the landfill slide that will be covered under emergency repair from FEMA. They have to begin to work immediately to meet FEMA reimbursement guidelines.

4:25 the Board went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Lanzetta

**Report on  
Meeting of the  
Special  
Committee on  
the Future of  
the UCRRA**

**UPDATE on the Special Committee on the  
FUTURE of the ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY**

The Special Committee combines members of the Ulster County Ways and Means Committee and the Environmental, Energy and Technology Committee and is chaired by Richard Gerentine, chair of Ways and Means. **The Committee is charged by the Legislature to make a recommendation on the Future of the RRA to the Legislature by the end of October 2012, with a provision of a 20-day extension.**

The Committee has held a series of meetings, beginning on August 27, to develop a near-term plan to address immediate financial problems of the RRA and the County and its taxpayers. The Ulster County website has a section on the Special Committee that includes documents of the session and minutes of the meetings which are fair and complete observations prepared by Krista Barringer, Deputy Clerk.

[http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/committeesinfo/2012/Special\\_Committee\\_Minutes](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/committeesinfo/2012/Special_Committee_Minutes)

The LWV's Solid Waste Committee and some other members have been regular attendees and participants at these meetings. Recently they have been receiving invitations by the chairman to attend. They are often the only "public" attendees.

The agenda topics for the meetings were: 1) possible sale of the RRA and issues related to bond indebtedness, 2) the possibility of creating special purpose taxing districts, and 3) Flow Control. After exploration and debate by the Committee, the first two options were rejected for a variety of reasons. The Committee then worked on a Flow Control Ordinance.

**The most recent meeting was held on Tuesday, October 23.** The session began with a discussion of a recent conversation between the Chairman of the Legislature and a representative of the haulers' organization, National Solid Wastes Management Association, regarding a letter from the representative about appearing before the committee. The Committee decided, by vote, to move forward on the agenda, leaving open if the Committee would hear from the Association. If the proposed local law is passed by the Legislature, public hearings will be required.

The Committee then worked toward recommending a Flow Control policy and proposed local law. The committee reviewed a Draft Committee Summary Document, A Proposed Local Law Amending Local Law Number 9 of 1991 – Ulster County Solid Waste Management Law plus a Memorandum, same subject, from Beatrice Havranek, Esq., County Attorney, and crafted a recommendation in the form of a resolution to be submitted to the County Legislature's Chair.

The recommendation was voted, 8 to 3, in favor. It proposes adopting Flow Control of solid waste but does not include recyclables in that waste. Ulster County Flow Control with recycling would require a Home Rule Request of the New York State Legislature and a change in state law. The Committee, on a motion from Legislators Ken Ronk and Wayne Harris, voted 6 to 5 against including the Home Rule Request.

In the discussion of the draft local law, Tim Rose, P.E., Executive Director the RRA, and Emilie Hauser, a member of LWV's Solid Waste Committee, provided many useful questions, explanations, and comments. LWV member, Vic Melville, suggested sponsors of the motion against a Home Rule Request document their reasoning to the Committee and the Legislature.

Another Special Committee meeting may be held to finalize the proposed local law.

Following the votes, various members of the Committee spoke about their reservations about the recommendation (the best of bad choices, not the best choice, etc.), concerns about a perceived "unfunded mandate" on the citizens of the County by uncapped mandated tipping fees, the need for an integrated long-term policy and plans - including landfills, haulers' concerns, current operations issues (e.g. costs and carbon footprints of hauling to out of county landfills), how to handle newer practices such as single-stream operations, and Zero Waste initiatives.

The LWV will review the current status of the situation and consider a course of action. We agree with one legislator who said in praising the hard work done by this Committee: we've only just *begun* to figure out how to manage Ulster County's waste.

Margaret Sellers (LWV Observer) and Vic Melville, with input from Cindy Lanzetta and Dare Thompson

**Ulster County  
Town  
Supervisors**

The meeting of the UC Town Supervisors Association was convened on October 16, 2012 at 8:30 by President, T/Supervisor John Valk and adjourned at 9:55. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2012 at 8:30 AM.

The first item on the agenda was an overview presentation of the county budget provided by County Executive Michael Hein with a Q & A and discussion that followed.

The areas noted dealt with:

-The Safety Net: one third of the cost involved to be paid by the county (and then the same for each of the following years) plus there will be a reliever of the 21% for the 2012 county tax. There has been a \$3.6 million cut in the county budget and \$1.7 million to go to the towns to help them to do their jobs.

-referenced changes in the following areas: the Public Works Department is 20% smaller than when Mr. Hein was elected and continues to do fine work; Mental Health was restructured by developing a net- work with not-for-profits to assist in handling the work; Golden Hill: rather than taking the traditional method of either closing or continuing without being able to finance, a new model was developed which others in NYS are using now; the RRA: all policy decisions must be paid for. There is still a \$23 million dollar bond deficit which UC must pay. If nothing is done to address this problem the RRA could "go into the tank" and the county would still have to pay the bond deficit. He has presented a plan to pay for such and deal with solid waste.

-with regards to the Tax Billing Service, Mr. Hein asked the T/Supervisors to develop a committee to deal with this matter.

-Economic Development: Mr. Hein noted that the model in use at this time was developed prior to the adoption of the charter form of government. He further commented that the present model of the UCDC and the IDA doesn't work emphasizing that it was the structure of the model presently in use, not the personnel. Times have changed. Businesses need to have a single point of entry to be able to move forward in business in UC.

The second item on the agenda dealt with the topic of county wide assessment which was being suggested by County Comptroller Auerbach. (Note: there were a large number of assessors present).

Mr. Auerbach indicated that he was raising this point in order to focus on what the county is facing: the problem: the public has a problem in the way every assessment is handled. He indicated that he was attempting to have a dialogue with the assessors on this topic as well as to develop such efficiencies county-wide. There were a variety of comments made by those in attendance (generally from the assessors):

- may get efficiencies with county performing the assessing but how effective would the county be?
- there are 18 out of 22 assessors in the county which have the experience of the work that is involved;
- one equalization rate in the county would result in not having equal results across the county;
- let the voters decide whether there should be one equalization rate in UC;
- presently the local assessor's offices are there "on the ground" and can more easily and readily answer the questions that local people have; to have county handling all such questions creates more expense ; would there be a regular annual assessment? This aspect needs to be discussed by the local and county personnel.

It appeared that having this discussion at this meeting with the assessors was viewed positively by the Comptroller.

Next on the agenda was commentary with the Chairman of the County Legislature Bernardo. There were various comments made regarding the proposed county budget:

- some present favored particularly because of the proposed commencement of the county taking over the costs of the Safety Net Program;
- flow control as it pertains to RRA raised concern about how much it would cost; need to have checks and balances to oversee how it is handled; only a stop gap as need to look toward more long term methods, i.e., 1-2 local landfills; composting, possible partnering with Dutchess County; possibly consider the use of an incinerator;
- appeared to be such concerns that the finances in the proposed county budget for the Safety Net and RRA programs....that they are connected, i.e. any change in one may effect the other and the final sum of the cost that is involved.

Once the agenda items were completed, the supervisors noted that not all the towns had paid their Safety Net rate. Supervisor Quigley indicated that he would supply proposed questions to be asked whether if the towns had paid then would the Safety Net payment also be relieved?

Lee Cane, Observer Corp