



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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Commentator

OCTOBER 2013

CALENDAR		
2013		
OCTOBER		
1	Tues. 7:15 PM	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989
4	Fri. 9:30 AM	Shared Services Study Committee , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Road, Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, echarwat@yahoo.com
5	Sat.	VOTER REGISTRATION at WalMart's, Kingston. The actual hours will be determined by the number of volunteers available to cover 2-hour shifts. See VOTER SERVICE below
8	TUES.	League Day at the United Nations – all welcome! Reserve by 9/25. Tour, lunch, 1:30 –4 pm briefing on the campaign to end violence against women (http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/index.shtml). Buy each separately or buy a package. See reservation form elsewhere in this Commentator or scroll way down on the www.lwvny.org homepage.
8	Tues. 5:30 PM	LWV Materials Management (Solid Waste) Study Committee , Gateway Diner Rt 9W just north of the Mid-Hudson Bridge, Highland. For info or to confirm: Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288 or packback56@yahoo.com
11	Fri.	LAST DAY to REGISTER TO VOTE!
16	Wed. 12-2:30 PM	SUNY Ulster 50th Anniversary Celebration – A panel discussion with Dr. Gerald Benjamin on SUNY's accomplishments. See PROGRAM NEWS.
21	Mon. 3:30 PM	LWV Members' meeting with Congressman Chris Gibson at his office at 721 Broadway, main floor conference room, Kingston. Space is limited. Reserve by 10/18 with LWV Pres. Dare Thompson, 236-3074.
22	Tues. 7 PM	GET READY TO VOTE! Learn about the SIX state ballot issues and find out what issues your town may have also placed on the ballot. Ulster BOCES, Rt 32 North in New Paltz. "Star" speaker: Dr. Gerald Benjamin , and Distinguished Professor, Associate VP for Regional Outreach, and Director of CRREO at SUNY New Paltz. Other speakers TBA.
NOVEMBER		
8	10:45 am	NATURALIZATION CEREMONY to welcome new citizens and to distribute voter information. See VOTER SERVICE below .

PREZ SEZ...**Voters, beware!**

When you go to the voting booth this year you will find SIX (!) state ballot issues and possibly one or more from your local government. Will you know how to vote?

The League is here to help. We have bought 5000 copies of the state LWV's **Voter Guides** and are currently getting them out to as many Ulster land Dutchess libraries and town halls and other sites as we can. You can also go to:

http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/elections/2013/VotersGuide_Part%20II_2013.pdf

and print out your own copy. Casino gambling is the issue getting the most attention publicly but you'll want to know about all six of the amendments

Even better, we are holding an **Issues Forum at Ulster BOCES on Rt 32 N in New Paltz at 7 pm on October 22**. The star speaker is **Dr. Gerald Benjamin**, Distinguished Professor and Associate VP for Regional Engagement at SUNY New Paltz. Dr. Benjamin is also the Director of SUNY's Center for Research, Regional Education, and Outreach (CRREO). He is as well-informed as anyone can possibly be on these issues - and we are very fortunate to have him living in our area and willing to come.

We will email our members and post all the details about other speakers on our website shortly. We will also provide a list of all the town and city ballot issues. Many deal with how long certain local officials should serve.

ALSO, we offer you **Vote411.org**, which Jim McGarry has been slaving over since mid-summer. It will offer county candidates' views. Because of our large service area, we cannot do all the town and city races, but we hope you will **USE IT!**

Finally, in Dutchess we are working to hold a forum with the **Family Court** justice candidates. The winner of this race will serve for a very long time and will often have a profound impact on the lives of those who come to court, so we want you to vote with care!

Election Day is November 5 (**October 11 is the last day to register!**) Time is running out for you to get informed - and to help get family and friends informed. Let us know if we be of further help.

Dare (845-236-3074, darethompson@gmail.com)

PROGRAM NEWS

NOTE: *SAIL on the CLEARWATER* has been postponed. Watch for details in 2014.

Fall Kick-Off Salad Supper and Program

If you only came for the food, it was a wonderful kickoff to the league year! But the enjoyment didn't stop there as 37 members and friends of the league were treated to an informative talk by Pat Pomeroy, Executive Director of the Hudson Valley Regional Council. Pat described the scope and very ambitious Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan.

Another highlight of the evening was Joe Pugliese, our student who represented our league at the Students Inside Albany conference this year. Disillusioned about today's youth? Joe dispelled any of those thoughts. He has all the attributes of a true leader and we look forward to following his successes.

And of course, everyone had the opportunity to get up to speed as various members showcased all that is presently being worked on in the league or is slated to occur in the near future. Opportunities abound to serve in either long-term or short-term commitments

in Voter Service, Observer Corps, Resource Development (membership, program, fundraising PR) and the Materials Management (Solid Waste) Study.

Special thanks to Irene McInnis who always works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that we are all guaranteed a smooth running event.

**SUNY Ulster
50th
Anniversary
celebration**

On October 16th Dr. Gerald Benjamin, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Research, Regional Education, and Outreach at SUNY New Paltz, will moderate a panel entitled *SUNY's Community Colleges: Aspirations and Accomplishments* that will discuss the goals that were set out when New York State legislated community colleges into existence. For more information and reservations, calling (845-687-5049) or by emailing 50years@sunyulster.edu by October 14.

**MEMBERSHIP
NEWS**

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

**New Member -
Connie
Hornbeck**

Connie is a big dynamo in a small package. She was born on a dairy farm in Shawangunk, Ulster Co. to Howard and Lovina Mance. The first year of her school life was spent in a one room school house nearby. She chuckled as she recalled that she learned to read from the older kids in the room. Her next step was from the "big school" in Pine Bush where she completed the second through the 12th grades. She obtained her bachelor's degree from the College at New Paltz and her elementary school teaching license soon thereafter.

The next year she married Lt. Richard Hornbeck who was a pilot in the Air Force. Their daughter was born in 1961 and their son, Tracy was born 10 years later. Tracy is a Master Sergeant in quality control for the US Air Force stationed at Stewart Air Force Base. Fawn Tantillo also graduated from The State University at New Paltz, having trained as an art teacher. She was encouraged to enter politics and served on the County Legislature for approximately 10 years. She has since resigned to assume the care of her husband.

Connie accompanied Richard at his various assignments, teaching and taking courses in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. During the years of his service they traveled to Australia, New Zealand, and most of the 50 states. They also visited in many countries in Europe and Nova Scotia on this continent where Connie discovered dinosaur tracks on a sedimentary rock.

Richard retired from his Air Force service in 1969 as a colonel. He did research in weapon accuracy until his death in 1995.

Connie was active in scouting all her life and won the highest award that Girl Scouts bestow on a volunteer. She is also proud of the DAR award she won in high school, Girls' State. Connie enjoys writing poetry about things in life that relate to ordinary occurrences and feelings. She is also proud that at age 50 she learned hang gliding and earned her license.

Her introduction to politics occurred on her 21st birthday when her father took her to vote for the first time. She has been an enrolled Republican for most of her voting life but she confesses she voted for John F. Kennedy because she found him "brilliant and charming." She served as party treasurer for 20 years and the Zoning Board of Appeals for 25 years. Connie closed with a quote from Mark Twain, "Politics is show business for ugly folks!"

Renee Sachs

Resource Development

Meeting Notes for August 19th are available at:
http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/Resource_Development_Meeting_Notes.pdf

VOTER SERVICE**Shutdown Crisis**

Curious about what your Congressman voted during the Affordable Care Act and the government shutdown crisis in the past few days? Here are two places you might look.

From the Times Union about Chris Gibson:

<http://www.timesunion.com/default/article/Gibson-stands-with-GOP-mostly-4861264.php>

From YNN's Capital Tonight team (Liz Benjamin et al) about Sean Patrick Maloney's votes:

<http://www.nystateofpolitics.com/?s=Sean+Patrick+Maloney>

How'r We Doin' & What's Next**Naturalization Ceremony, September 20**

Members Soyal Smalls and Jean and Jim McGarry welcomed and congratulated 44 new citizens. As we handed out voter registration information, one elderly lady from Bulgaria expressed her gratitude and elation on receiving her voter registration packet. "I have never voted before and I am going to make sure I vote in this upcoming election." Such is the joy we give and receive.

National Voter Registration Day, September 24

While there were only 13 registrations, some people requested forms for family members and others requested registration forms to make changes in their status. We also fielded many voting questions. The state voter guides were well received since many were not fully informed or had no idea about the six propositions that will be on the ballot. No doubt, our mere presence at the storefronts, asking those who passed by if they were registered to vote or if they were, did they know about the propositions on the ballots, served not only as a reminder to vote but perhaps spurred some to sit up, start listening, and get informed before they cast their vote on November 5.

Busy Times! Volunteers needed!

Please contact Jean McGarry at jfmcg@hvc.rr.com or 336-6622 if you can spare any time for the events below:

Voter Registration October 5, WalMart's, Kingston. Volunteers are needed! The actual hours will be determined by the number of volunteers available to cover 2-hour shifts. All materials, tables, chairs and a voter instruction guide as well as FAQ's will be provided to all volunteers.

Naturalization Ceremony, November 8, 10:45 at the Ulster County Court House, 285 Wall St., Kingston- Volunteers are needed for the Naturalization Ceremony to welcome new citizens and to distribute voter information. The ceremony begins at noon but volunteers are asked to assemble at the courthouse at 10:45. Voter registrations forms, voter guides, and league pamphlets will be provided.

Quite often, league members are asked, "What exactly does the League of Women Voters do?" The above is it in a nutshell. This is what we truly are all about. Hope to hear from you.

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.

ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS**Solid
Waste/Materials
Management****Hudson Valley Regional Council Meeting of the Solid Waste and
Materials Management Working Group**

September 11, 2013, Taylor BioMass Facility, Montgomery, NY

The meeting began at 10:15 am with representatives from Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. Putnam reported conducting three pharmaceutical (Pharm) collections and two household hazardous waste (HHW) collections.

Ulster reported that, along with Pharm and HHW collections, they are working with the State and the UC Sheriff's Office to install permanent collection boxes for Pharm. The program is the NYS Medication Drop Box Program. With those boxes and several town boxes, residents will have the option of dropping medications at nine sites in Ulster County.

It was also reported that the NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling is having their annual conference November 13-14th in Cooperstown. There will be a preconference workshop on the 12th on Disaster Preparedness and Response.

UC composting is moving forward and UCRRA is doing educational materials for institutions and commercial entities. They are also trying to market their "tested" compost.

Sullivan reported they have only been able to offer 1 HHW/Pharm event.

Discussion ensued about a paint stewardship law that is being presented in the state legislature. According to Michelle Bergkamp, paint can make up 60% of the HHW collected. It is hoped that legislation for proper stewardship of materials will alleviate the County need to conduct HHW/Pharm collections.

Westchester reported they have 20 drop boxes for Pharm. At their Household Material Recovery Facility (HMRF) recycling is up and waste is decreasing. They are also working on "food rescue" to ensure extra food from institutions gets to hungry people instead of the garbage can.

Westchester is experimenting with a unit that can be used by an institution to dehydrate food and would make it easier to keep on site until it can be combined with compost to cure.

The problems with disposing of glass were discussed. It was agreed to make this the focus of the December meeting, which will take place in Putnam.

It was reported that the 20-year-old Croton Landfill is being harnessed for gas to run pumping stations at the facility.

Dutchess reported that they are working with DC Parks to recycle plastic bins for recycling bins in the parks. There will be more effort to encourage food divergence at next year's DC Fair. There is also an effort to increase recycling in DC Office Buildings.

DCRRA is burning collected Pharm waste. So far this year they have taken in over 2,500 lbs in addition to over 1,000 lbs from police sources. A lot of material diverted from waterways.

Pat Pomeroy (Exec. Director, HVRC) gave the DEC's quarterly report. The DC Solid Waste Plan has been approved, with Ulster and Westchester next in the queue. On 9/24 colleges will have a forum on food waste diversion.

Jim Taylor gave a presentation on Taylor Biomass. He described the waste stream

as 10% unrecognizable material, 65% organic (in which he included plastic), 23% inorganic (primarily recyclable), and 2% HHW (which he believes is being reduced).

The Taylor Biomass Process focuses on using fossil fuel to begin a closed loop process that causes a high temperature reaction between the processed organic material and sand. Besides producing electricity, the byproduct of the reaction is fed back into the loop (charcoal) and accumulates to become the fuel of future reactions. This is a patented technology that Taylor has fought legal battles to defend. It is very efficient and does not impact air quality like current burning technologies.

Mr. Taylor also talked about the financing process for new technologies. He outlined a long, torturous political process that proves to be too expensive and frustrating for most innovative entrepreneurs. Already Taylor has spent \$43 million dollars with no assurances of loan guarantees for future development. Taylor is weighing whether to go private or continue to look for help from the Department of Energy, who has been the overseeing governmental agency. He is disappointed that the original interest in finding alternatives to fossil fuels seems to have waned in the present political climate.

Mr. Taylor offered to take interested people on a tour of the facilities.

Meeting ended at noon.

Cindy Lanzetta

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

At our league's last board meeting, we adopted the policies on the why's and how's of an Observer Corps described on the LWVUS website at <http://www.lwv.org/content/36-observer-corps>

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! We especially need observers for both the Ulster and Dutchess County legislatures. Observers go to meetings on subjects that interest them, often get to know the legislators, and report objectively to the Commentator monthly. While county meetings are our priority, you may observe your town or city board meetings if 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.

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

Date: Sept. 23, 2013

Start Time: 6:03 p.m.

Adjourn Time: 6:45 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting to order and the August 19, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

[audio recording]

Proposed Resolution No.217A setting a public hearing on proposed local law, known as the "False Alarm Reduction Act" was sent back to the originating committee, pending questions (by Legislator David Donaldson) on jurisdiction and fine amounts.

Proposed Resolution No. 236 setting a public hearing on a proposed local law to update the term of membership to the Environmental Management Council, to be held Tues. Oct.

22, 2013, at 7:00 PM was approved.

Proposed Resolution No. 238 adopting a proposed local law amending a local law (entitled "Mandate and Taxation Information Act").

Proposed Resolution No. 239 adopting a local law amending a local law (requiring regulations regarding the sale of motor vehicle fuels) pertaining to sign sizes, etc. was not adopted. The proposed resolution is to be sent to the local zoning boards (ZBAs) for comment and the resolution is postponed until the committee's Oct. meeting.

Proposed Resolution No. 240 adopting a proposed local law amending a local law (requiring regulations regarding the sale of vehicle fuels) pertaining to consumers with a convenient and accessible way (posted telephone numbers) to file complaints regarding the practices of motor fuel dealers was adopted following a discussion of cost (about \$500 to the county for a mailing to the stations) and fines.

Two LATE proposed resolutions were adopted.

New Business: Majority Leader Ken Ronk briefly discussed the charter revision provision of the permissive referendum and a new committee.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 9/27/13

**Ulster County
Legislature:
Environmental
Energy &
Technology**

Date: Sept. 12, 2013 Start Time: 5:50 p.m. Adjourn Time: 7:10 p.m. (approx.)

[audio recording]

Chairman Carl Belfiglio called the meeting to order and took attendance. The meeting minutes of August 8, 2013, were approved.

Proposed Resolution No. 182 authorizing counsel to the legislature to prepare a potential amendment to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency operating agreement with the county of Ulster was not approved by the committee – action may take place in the legislature. The vote by the committee followed an extensive discussion of several procedural items, including: an opinion is needed by bond counsel in response to a letter from the county attorney (Beatrice Havranek, Esq.), the resolution may not be necessary as a prior resolution may cover the intent of the resolution (Legislator Tracey Bartels was particularly concerned about this, and voted against advancing the resolution) , and Legislator John Parete was not present to explain the resolution (he is no longer a member of the committee).

[Subsequently on Sept. 16, 2013, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency board indicated they expect to vote at their next meeting (Oct. 21, 2013) to rescind an equivalent resolution because the county committee defeated their resolution. This LWV observer saw the county committee vote was on procedure, not on the content of the resolution, and the intent of the resolution was not abandoned; this situation raises a governance issues between the committee and the board.]

Proposed Resolution No. 236 setting a public hearing on a local law regarding an update to the term of membership to the Environmental Management Council, to be held Oct. 22, 2013, was approved.

Proposed Resolution No. 241 authorizing the County Attorney to commence an Article 78 proceeding to challenge the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's continued delay in entering a consent order with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection regarding polluted releases into the Esopus Creek was approved, as amended (amendment proposed by Legislator Craig Lopez), following public comments by John and Rosemary Sullivan and some committee discussion, and Terry Bernardo, Legislature Chairman, commented on the public hearing

on Filtration Avoidance Determination be held on Sept. 25.

New Business was the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency 2014 proposed budget. Carl Belfiglio, Committee Chairman, said a letter had been sent to the UCRRA board chairman, but no response was received. Tim Rose, UCRRA Executive Director, was present and he presented the proposed budget and discussed several items, including: expected revenues, tipping rates, and the need for the UCRRA to increase its reserves. Charles Landi, UCRRA board member, also joined the discussion. A public hearing on the proposed budget is expected by Oct. 15, 2013.

Old Business was the Climate Smart Committee (for discussion only). Tracey Bartels, Deputy Chair, indicated the LWV would be invited to have a member on the committee. Dare Thompson, LWV Mid-Hudson President, was present.

[The audio recordings will provide greater detail.]

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 9/27/13

**Ulster County
Legislature:
Economic
Development and
Tourism
Committee**

Date: Sept. 10, 2013 Start Time: 6:32 p.m. Adjourn Time: 6:42 p.m.

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

[audio recording]

The August 14, 2013, meeting minutes were approved.

All proposed resolutions were approved:

Resolution No. 249 appropriating grant funds – amending the 2013 Ulster County Budget – Department of Tourism.

Resolution No. 250 appointing member to the Ulster County Planning Board – Town of Gardiner.

Resolution No. 251 approving and re-adopting the Department of Public Transportation Substance Abuse Policy (UCAT) was approved following discussion of tests and incidents (none) with Bob DiBella, Director.

Legislator Ken Wishnick commented the county has a new UCDC. He wants representation of the committee, reports to the committee and schedules of the UCDC meetings. Also IDA reports to the committee are requested.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 9/27/13

**UC Legislative
Health and
Personnel
Committee**

The Committee was convened on 8-5-13 at 5:30 by Chairman, Legislator Robert Aiello and adjourned at 6:03.

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

Others Present: DCE Ken Crannell, Krista Barringer, Dept. Clerk UC Legislature, Eric Guerin, County Attorney, Brenda Bartholomew, Director of Personnel

Minutes were approved for the June 3 meeting. The minutes for the July 22 meeting were not approved as two of the legislators, Belfiglio and Provenzano, who made up the quorum for the 8-5 meeting, were not in fact present at the July 22 meeting.

Following approval of the minutes for June 3, the committee then addressed the monthly Personnel Report. Legislator Belfiglio commented that while he could understand the sections dealing with new hires and those leaving county employment he found the transfer section unclear.

He requested that the number of the transfer position from one position to another be indicated as well as the title of the position. Clarification regarding position numbers for new hires was provided by Personnel Director Bartholomew: A new hire will have the

same position number as the one that exists. If it was a newly created position the number would then be a new one.

There was one Resolution for the committee to consider: #216. This resolution had been addressed at the July 22, 2013 committee meeting, voted on, and referred to the full legislature.

This resolution deals with establishing and reporting the standard work day for elected and appointed officials. The concern originally arose as a result of questions from the state comptroller's office. More specifically, the questions concerned determining the contribution to be made to the state pension fund. The days, hours worked by an individual are basic information needed in order to determine the contribution to be made to the pension system.

While sent on to the full legislature previously, the latter returned it to the committee apparently as some of the legislators wished to examine their hours.

The committee approved the resolution again. Note: the resolution established the number of hours in a day for 16 legislators and indicated whether they used the county's time keeping system or a record of activities to do this. Seven of the legislators have elected for whatever reason not to be part of the state retirement system and therefore the resolution would not apply to them.

There was not new business, but the members voiced some concerns about some health issues that have been brought to their attention by constituents and other legislators. As a result for the next meeting the Commissioner of Health, Dr. Smith and representatives of the Health Alliance, as newly constituted, will be asked to attend.

The UC legislative Health and Personnel Committee was convened by Chairman, Legislator Robert Aiello at 6:45 on 9-24-13 and adjourned at 6:53.

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

Others Present: Krista Barringer, Dept. Clerk UC Legislature, Erica Guerin, County Attorney, Legislator Dean Fabiano

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the July 2, 2013 and August 5, 2013 meetings.

The monthly personnel report was distributed to the committee members.

There were two resolutions:

Resolution No. 246: Renewing the county's option to renew the lease on Willow Park effective November 1, 2013 for three years ending October 31, 2016. Note: The WIC clinic and STD clinic operated by the UCDOH are located there. Cost of lease borne by county, state, and federal governments. Passed

Resolution No. 247: This resolution authorizes the Chairman of the UC Legislature to execute a contract with the NYS DOH to provide funds to enforce the adolescent tobacco use prevention act and clean indoor air act for a period April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2018 utilizing funds from the state. Passed.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

UC Board of Health

Initially, there was no quorum at the time the Board met on 9-9-13 at 6:40. With Commissioner Smith conducting the meeting, those present: Drs. Delma and Woodley and Marianne Hildebrandt; along with Shelley Mertens, the Environmental Health Director reviewed/discussed the various topics that were on the agenda, as far as they were able.

Additionally, Ms. Kouhout, secretary to the Commissioner, noted that due to computer

problems experienced during the day, there was some material not available for the board to review at this time.

Anything that needed to be voted on was initially set aside with the point to raise such at the next meeting.

The group did review:

- the permit & service fee schedule;
- noted the update in the mass gathering protocol; and
- the recommended costs for flu shots (\$20) and pneumonia shots (\$70).

In each instance the Commissioner requested that those present review each item in order to be prepared to discuss and vote on such at the next meeting.

Ms. Kouhout indicated that she would be checking with the county attorney whether an e-vote would be acceptable in some of the considerations; and took the vote from those members of the board who were present.

The Medical Examiner, Dr. Heller, was not present so there was no report for June, July or August presented.

The last item on the agenda dealt with a report from Shelley Mertens, the Environmental Health Director. Apparently there was an attorney, Andrew Zweben, who was scheduled to be at the board meeting to review with the board the final report on a hearing that had been filed by the hearing officer, Louis Klein. Two things then occurred: a call was made by Ms. Mertens to the attorney and a call was made by Ms. Kouhout to Dr. Tack, the president of the board. Contact was made with both: Mr. Zweben had thought the meeting at 300 Flatbush Avenue rather than at Mental Health on Golden Hill; and Dr. Tack was able to communicate from where he was. The remainder of the meeting was conducted with them and the members present via speaker phone....everyone could hear the commentary.

The subject of Ms. Mertens report was the formal hearing involving a restaurant located in Shandaken. Mr. Zweben then reviewed the facts in the case: the property in question borders the Esopus Creek and its septic system is therefore very close to the creek. The property is owned by

Mr. Erick Risher. The individual involved in this case was non-compliant with DEP regulations. Nevertheless, he has continued to operate the business. He had been told that he could have only 40 seats. Given that the building is located in the watershed, he must have DEP approval (limit noted as amount of waste related to the number of seats....people who would be there).

Apparently, during the formal hearing before Mr. Klein Mr. Risher said in his testimony that he knew that he was restricted to 40 seats, but he could not operate the business at that level (he apparently had in excess of 70 seats) and make a living. He also refused to obtain an attorney even though Mr. Klein had urged him to do so and offered to delay the hearing until he obtained one. Further, he stated that he did not think what he had to do in terms of filing reports with the Board of Health regarding the various aspects of the sewage/waste and use of water was not that necessary.

Mr. Zweben went on to say that the final report that Mr. Klein submitted recommended that Mr. Risher be fined for non-compliance with four state codes and one county code @ \$1000 each, for a total fine of \$5,000. Mr. Zweben recommended that Mr. Klein's report and the \$5,000 fine be approved by the Board of Health. He also recommended that the fine be imposed on the person who signed the permit. He then terminated his call having been thanked by the board for his work.

Following the above, the board members present and Dr. Tack approved a motion to follow the report submitted by the hearing officer, Mr. Klein as Mr. Zweben had recommended. The latter will be asked to send a letter to Mr. Risher with a copy to the board.

As there was now a quorum, the board also voted to accept the recommendation as to the \$20 cost for the flu shot and \$70 for the pneumonia shot. Dr. Tack then terminated his call....and the board terminated its meeting at 7:27.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**UC Association
of Town
Supervisors and
Mayors**

The UC T/Supervisors' meeting was convened on 9-17-2013 by President, T/Supervisor Carl Chipman (Rochester).

Initially, the two Deputy County Executives Crannell and Sudlow spoke primarily about the count budget, Safety Net, 3rd ship among the police forces.

The principle point that was made was that County Executive Hein is considering all the options and possible results to handling the county budget in the event that the state legislature does not pass the 1% sales tax extension before November 20.

The Safety Net (SN) program is a social services program that has been financed by the towns rather than the county, the only county in NYS where the program is so financed.

DCE Crannell state UC does not have the highest case load in NYS, but costs have not gone down. This resulted apparently from the changes in the state budget: the counties all now are responsible for 71% of the SN costs and the state 29%. Additionally, NYS had increased the rates for welfare receipts by 30% commencing July 1, 2009. The increase was to be by 10% per year, which was done in 2009 and 2010. However, the third segment of the 30% was deferred in April, 2012. The state determines the rate, the counties have no discretion. Apparently UC is paying out more, which DCE Crannell could not offer an explanation as to why. He did say UC does not have as much low income housing as other counties.

He noted further that 68% of the 1000 cases that UC has are exempt under state regulations due to medical reasons and caring for a child. Further, he pointed out that by federal regulations there is a five year limit a person can receive assistance under the federal program. At that point, in NYS, if the individual continues to need assistance, it will be under the SN program.

He noted that the county has an aggressive work program for those who are not exempt; has developed a program to deal with fraud and abuse of the welfare system. Further, the county has instituted an oversight program to address such situations and developed a hot line system that the public can utilize to report matters of concern.

There were some suggestions/observations from the supervisors: perhaps the accuracy of the exemptions to work should be examined; apparently more cases of a criminal nature have been noted in one town; question raised about handling undocumented aliens; and the suggestion that more people were needed in the field like use to be the case to make home visits.

DCE Sudlow stated that the budget/contingency process was engaged in to protect the towns from the impact of the financial problems as much as possible. He noted that the shared services that had been utilized in the previous two years had been done to address finances and available help. Further, he pointed out that the police at town and county levels are doing considerable in cooperating and helping each other out. Nevertheless, some of the supervisors noted that there has been a reduction in manpower

available for the third shift for the various law enforcement services.

Mr. Chipman noted there is a survey of resources report that will be released soon and will be distributed to each town and the county.

Fawn Tantillo, representing Legislative Chairman Bernardo, noted that the legislature is concerned about the SN costs and what will happen to the 1/3 the county has already taken over, as the legislature would like to move ahead with the second 1/3. Further, she noted that there are six propositions on the ballot this year; that the League of Women Voters has such in its handout...the Facts for Voters. She passed out some copies that she had made.

Following the presentations there was some discussion among the supervisors on the above to topics. A suggestion was made by Supervisor Hansut that Mr. Chipman should write to the County Executive re DCE Crannell not answering Supervisor's Myers questions. Further, Supervisor Hansut suggested that the supervisors as a group should come up with a proposal that all the T/Supervisors can agree to that the towns won't pay for Safety Net and that it is up to the county and the state to figure it out and take care of it.

The principal concern that was voiced appeared to be what the legal ramifications would be if the towns supported such a proposal. It was suggested that the above would be check by the town attorneys and contact with their state organization.

At this point, this observer had to leave.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp



HAPPY FALL!

This month we were shaken and saddened by the sudden loss of one of the "golden" members of our League. For more than fifty years Elizabeth Askue was a delightful and invaluable League volunteer who served in more ways than we can recount here. She claimed that when she moved here from Canada, the League taught her how to be an engaged new citizen, but she gave back much more than we gave her as she served as president, as a moderator, as a yard sale organizer and fierce recycler, and in so many other roles. She also served a term on the state LWV board.

The thirty or so LWV members and associates who helped pack the church for her memorial were blessed with a service that captured her grace, humor, love of theatre and music and her dedication to helping others. As she did in life, she lifted us up.

In her youth, Elizabeth composed the following poem.
It was read at her memorial service.



Like a little wild thing
It darted here and there
It floated up and back again
As if to find its lair

Then shooting up it landed
For it had found its nest
And switching off its little light
It softly turned to rest



How could she have foreseen her life so clearly?
She was indeed a special gift to us.

We send our condolences to her family and thank all those who have been sending contributions to our League in memory of Elizabeth. Her spirit is very much with us and we will continue to honor it as we moderate debates, fight for the environment, concern ourselves with those in need, and otherwise do our best to carry on her good work.