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Newsletter June 2024

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Action Items



Get the most out of a Membership and Be Involved with Your Local League!

This section offers reports from ongoing groups and a Calendar to keep us connected:

MEETING DATES & ZOOM LINKS-

June

* All members and interested non-members are welcome at all League meetings unless otherwise indicated.

Primary Early Voting from June 15 - 23, the Primary Election on Tuesday, June 25 . Also, your by-mail registration or absentee voting application must be received by your Board of Elections by June 15.

June 3rd

12:00 PM

LWV Mid-Hudson Membership Committee Meeting

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82525444407?>

[pwd=K7bTXgUbH6mKNaDLCiXar4kbTOmckg.1](#)

June 11th

6:30 PM

Ulster County Meetup

Village Diner

140 Main St.

Saugerties

June 12th

2 PM

"Suffs-the Musical"

NYC

June 14th

12 PM

Dutchess County Meetup

[Mahoney's](#)

Poughkeepsie

June 17th

1:45 PM

Book Club

[Enzo's](#)

Kingston

June 20th

Annual Meeting!

(bring dues please -

\$60 for an individual, \$90 for a household, made out to LWV-MHR)

5 to 7 PM

Food & Refreshments!

[Redeemer Lutheran Church](#)

New Paltz

June 24th

7 PM

"Trash the Incinerator"

Mothers Out Front

Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7913729721?omn=82128258951>

June 28th

12 PM

Woodstock/North West Ulster Meetup

[Brio's](#) Phoenicia

June 27-30

LWV National Convention in DC!



The Prez Says



Five of us gathered 'round a table at the Gateway Diner in Highland late last week for a lively time addressing and stuffing a mailing giving you everything you need to know about our upcoming Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 5

to 7 PM, and less than a month away.

It's at a new location for us - the [Redeemer Lutheran Church](#) on Rt 32 in New Paltz (near the southern end of the SUNY campus). Your envelope should have reached you by now. If it hasn't, let us know!

As the mailing indicates, board members will be treating you to food and drink, talented members Kate Hymes and Pat Lamanna will entertain you with a poem and short essay (Kate) and a couple songs (Pat), we'll share information about recent and planned activities, and yes, there will be a BRIEF business portion. The Nominating Committee's proposed slate and the Budget Committee's proposed budget were enclosed so you can review them in advance.

Working across three counties has been a challenge but our efforts to connect across all that geography have really taken hold, and the synergy has been a bonus.

There is a LOT getting done including a new website, plus more voter registration efforts, candidate events, naturalization ceremonies, and visits with legislators than ever.

Our two 2024 "Students Inside Albany" (this year both from Orange Co.) have just returned from the four-day program and we look forward to hearing how it went!

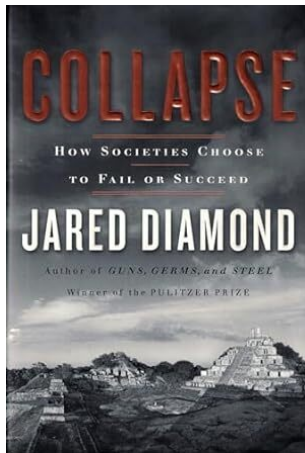
And plans are already beginning for a fall election season that promises to be like no other.

Our new fiscal year begins on July 1, and DUES are due. If you bring your checkbook on the 20th, you can renew right there. It's \$60 for an individual, \$90 for a household, made out to LWVMHR. You can also use the form and self-addressed envelope we mailed to you with the Annual Meeting info or go to lwvmidhudson.org and pay via PayPal. It is a surprising amount of work for us to go after late dues so blessings on all of you who get right on it! With all that's at stake this fall, your membership support has never been more important.

Remember that your dues also make you a member of the state (lwvny.org) and national (lwv.org) Leagues. You'll find so much helpful information about election security, how to counter misinformation, and so much more.

I hope to see you on the 20th!

Dare



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

June 17th

1:45 PM

[Enzo's Ristorante](#) in Kingston.

On May 6th, members of the group discussed Yuri Harari's "21 Lessons for the 21st Century". This author is highly recommended to all League Members. We're planning on reading his next book, "Homo Deus: A brief History of Tomorrow" in August.

Our book for Monday, June 17th, is "Collapse - How Societies Choose To Fail or Succeed"

by the Pulitzer Prize winning author, Jared Diamond.

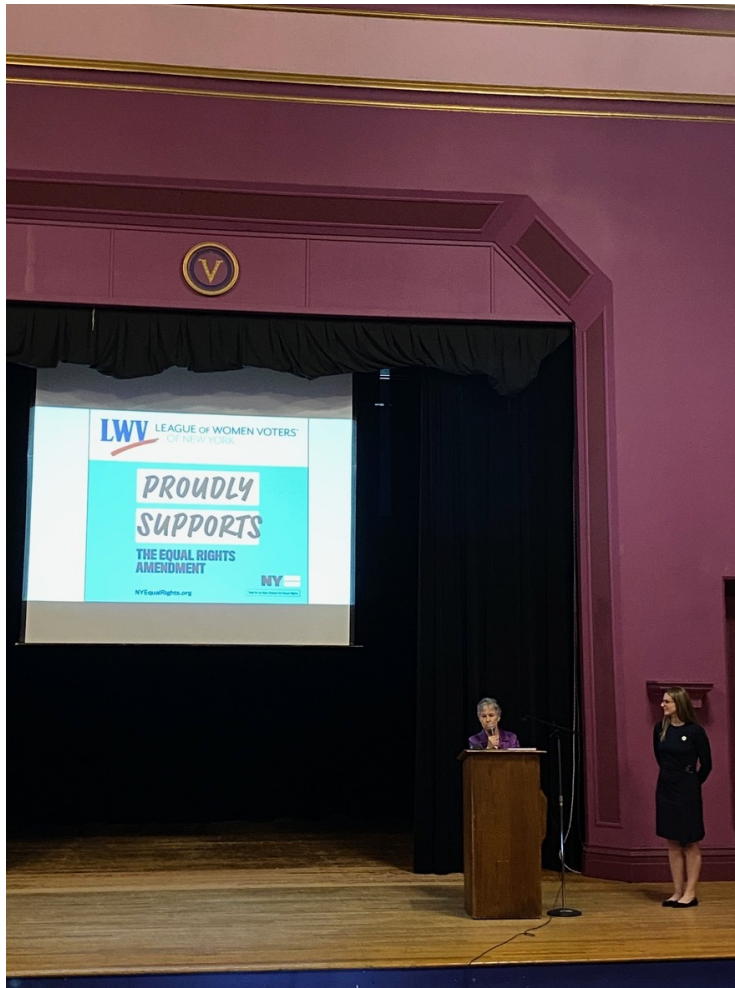
Another superb example of what League members are discussing.

Bring a friend and discover a new experience with League Members.

As always, we encourage members to borrow the book from the library or purchase from local booksellers.

Daisy Tyler

daisytyler68@hotmail.com



Cunneen-Hackett Theater NYS ERA May 16th Event

Equal Rights for All

by Louise Reavis

As Leagues around the state began hosting NYS ERA kick-off events (see below for info about the Mid-Hudson event), supporters witnessed yet more proof of the reason we all need to work to secure its passage.

The New York State Republican Party filed a suit in Livingston County Supreme Court, before a Republican-friendly judge on May 7th claiming that the Legislature did not follow correct procedure under the State Constitution. As a result the amendment was removed from the November ballot.

Days later, Attorney General Letitia James formally appealed the decision, arguing that this objection was merely procedural and that past amendments to the state constitution have followed the same procedure and were still put on the ballot and became law.

It's important for all of us to know that New Yorkers for Equal Rights, the

coalition of which LWV is a part, is advising that this development was expected and that they are confident the appeal will be successful and the amendment will be reinstated on the ballot by November.

In the meantime we should continue to spread the word about the important protections afforded by the NYS ERA to many marginalized groups in the state such as ethnicity, nation of origin, disability, age and sex (including gender expression and pregnancy or pregnancy outcomes). These groups are currently not mentioned in the New York State Constitution (only race and religion are) and their civil rights are vulnerable to changing political winds unless stated specifically.

On Thursday, May 16th, the LWV Mid-Hudson chapter hosted a networking/informational session on what the NYS ERA covers, called "Power to the People" at the Cunneen-Hackett center in Poughkeepsie. A group of about 30 people heard a presentation about the NYS ERA by Erikc Smitka, New York State LWV deputy director and LWVNY's task force coordinator. Questions and a lively discussion ensued, including several points about the kinds of arguments raised by the opposition and how to counter the spread of mis and dis-information about the amendment. A key point was that the amendment doesn't change existing laws; it merely protects New Yorkers in the identified groups from discrimination by the State. There was great conversation and wonderful food. Big thanks to all who attended and helped to organize!

Are you interested in joining our LWVMHR ERA task force? If so, contact Cindy Lanzetta at packback56@yahoo.com or Louise Reavis at louise.reavis@gmail.com





Post-Season School Board Event Notes

by Cindy Bell

School board candidate events are always interesting because they highlight the issues, culture and social fabric of the communities they serve. This year was no exception, and some of the conversations were particularly creative, so I wanted to share them.

Here are some highlights:

When asked “What does equity mean to you?”, an interesting response was “Everyone gets what they need- not necessarily the same as everyone else.” A not-so-new concept was talked about, although new to me. It was 3K as Pre-

K for three-year-olds. According to our LWV school board maven Nora Scherer, Kingston City Schools already has them, though most others do not. It was mentioned as a possible enhancement to bring more families to one very rural school district. Not likely to happen, though.

One local district suffered the loss of 50% of its student body over the last decade. This resulted in the closure of two beloved community schools. One candidate thought that empty school buildings might generate some revenue and find new use by leasing the space to renewable energy providers for solar panels on rooftops and over parking lots.

Finally, there were a number of issues not thoroughly explored during the course of the evening. Candidates were invited to share their thoughts on these important conversations to have going forward.

- Student over-reliance on tech
- Student school safety
- AI use in education and need for better regulation.
- Equitable resource distribution
- Fiscal responsibility
- Mental health issues and needs
- Right-sizing staff- studies
- Staff support (including non-teaching staff)

For more information on school board responsibilities, check out our LWVMHR program recording at [Running for School Board](#) (youtube.com)

To be informed of our next Moderator/Timekeeper Training, email [Cindy Bell](#) or [Dare Thompson](#). Moderating services are a significant and reliable source of funds for LWVMHR as well as a useful life and professional skill.



From NY Times

Regional Meetup Groups

Southern Tier:

This group is made up of members from Orange County, southern Dutchess County, and southern Ulster County.

June will be a busy month! On June 11th, some members will be going back to the Tri-Valley High School to see the student projects that the LWVMHR collaborated with.

On June 12th, we will be going to see "Suffs- the Musical"!

Of course we'll be at the Annual Meeting on the 20th, so we thought we might skip our own meetup this month. Instead, we are encouraging our group to attend another one of the meetups in the Hudson Valley. Check them out below!

Dutchess County

The next regular meeting will be on June 14th, at noon, at Mahoney's in Poughkeepsie. Mahoney's is accommodating us with a private room! Let us know if you can join us - faycasatuta@gmail.com

Ulster County

from Cindy Bell

Ulster County North/West Regional Meet-Ups -

A delightful hour and a half was spent at the Garden Café in Woodstock on May 24th. There were eight of us, all sitting around a table and most of us talking all at once. We were joined by our president, Dare Thompson, and spent the time reacquainting ourselves, finding out what's new with LWVMHR, telling stories and getting to know those 'new' to the area. We had such a good time that photos were completely forgotten! Ah, well, next time.

The next **Woodstock/West** meetup will be at Brio's in Phoenicia on June 28th.

We'll be seeing each other at the Annual Meeting on the 20th in New Paltz.

The next **Saugerties** meeting is scheduled for June 11 at the Village Diner in Saugerties. This one will be held at 6:30pm to allow for those with work schedules.

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Environmental Impact

Vampire Energy Use~ Unplug to save electricity

by Cindy Bell

With all the smart devices and appliances available today, it is more important than ever to be aware of how much electricity they draw even when not in use. Electronics use 5%-10% power through standby lights, alerts, clocks, internet/wireless connections and more-- even when off. Other names for this are standby power, phantom power, shadow load and idle current.

Some helpful tips we can all use to reduce our energy consumption are:

- Unplug chargers when you're finished charging because they continue to draw power even with no devices attached.
- Unplug radios, wireless media units and infrequently used televisions (e.g. guest rooms)
- Power off computers and printers when not in use.
- Unplug televisions, washers/dryers, coffee makers and other small countertop appliances while away from home for more than a day or two.
- Empty and turn off refrigerators and unplug cordless phones for extended periods away from home.

Even small actions make a big difference over communities and over time.

Cindy Bell



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Supporters of New York plastics reduction bill make final push in the face of 'formidable' opposition

By Susan Arbetter

Microplastics have now been found just about everywhere: Every single human organ, in breast milk, in newborn babies, in clouds. It's also suspected that they are causing problems with male fertility.

The latest Siena College poll shows 67% of voters support a bill that would reduce packaging by 50% over 12 years, including more than three-quarters of Democrats and a plurality of Republicans. The bill, "The Packaging Reduction & Recycling Act," would reduce the use of plastics packaging by 50% over 12 years, require companies that produce plastics to find a more sustainable option or pay a fee and give those fees to municipalities that run recycling facilities.

The bill is expansive, and so is opposition to it.

[Read more.](#)

News



League Members Lobby Albany

Five members of the LWV Mid-Hudson Region attended the LWVNYS's Lobby Day on May 7th. After a morning training session to update members on the latest legislative developments, they met with the staff of Senator Michelle Hinchey. Pictured above, our local League members join others for a photograph in front of a plaque honoring women's suffrage, in the State Capitol.



LWVMHR Members attend Ulster County Naturalization Ceremony

On May 10th, 25 new citizens were sworn in at the Ulster County Courthouse. Four League members were in attendance to distribute voter registration forms. Member Daisy Tyler says, "It's always a joyful event to participate."



Pinkster Celebration Transart

LWVMHR at the Kingston Pinkster Celebration

by Deborah Marr

Pinkster embraces and celebrates "Joy as an Act of Resistance," Begun during our country's slaveholding times, it has transformed into a time to honor our ancestor's ability to find joy in the time of hardship.

TRANSART requested the League of Women Voters Mid-Hudson Region to be available to inform and register voters during this May's celebration in Kingston.

Daisy Taylor, Christine Hunter, Karen Miller and myself had time to get to know one another while experiencing music, theatre, and local artists. To find out more about Pinkster check out their web site transartinc.org/pinkster.



Mothers Out Front Invitation to "Trash the Incinerator"!

Decisions are being made about the future of Dutchess County's Incinerator. The County's municipal waste management is based on burning trash. "Trash the Incinerator–Clean Air for Dutchess County" will explain why our incinerator is a hazard to people, the planet and your pocketbook. It describes alternatives to burning trash, and suggests actions you can take to urge legislators to research and implement these alternatives. Mark your calendars for this zoom presentation by Mothers Out Front-Dutchess County.

Topic: Clean Air for Dutchess County!

Time: Jun 24, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7913729721?omn=82128258951>



Music on the Walkway Over the Hudson - Suffrage Style

On Thursday, June 6, 6-6:30 PM, League member Pat Lamanna and her friend and fellow folk singer Lydia Adams Davis will present a program of women's suffrage songs on the Highland side of the Walkway Over the Hudson. There will be songs that were sung at rallies for women's suffrage in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as original songs by Pat and Lydia and some of their favorite songwriters. The program is free. In case of rain it will be held on the covered patio.

HELP! We've already waited over half a century!

While we have been actively engaged in efforts to educate voters about an Equal Rights Amendment to the New York State Constitution that will be on the November ballot, we cannot ignore the fact that there is also a newly energized effort at the federal level to get the federal Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) added to the U.S. Constitution.

As you probably know, the federal ERA has met all requirements for a constitutional amendment, yet the federal government has not yet certified and published it. All that is needed now is the removal of the arbitrary time limit that was included in its preamble when Congress first passed it in 1972.

The national LWV is working in coalition with other gender equity and civil rights organizations to make this happen and to see the ERA certified and published as the 28th Amendment.

We are being asked to alert those LWV members and friends who live in Congressional Districts 17 (represented by Mike Lawler) and 19 (represented by Marcus Molinaro) to contact your Congress member and urge him to sign House Discharge Petition 6 to bring House Joint Resolution 25 to the House floor for a vote. Once this resolution (along with the Senate version) is passed, President Biden has indicated he will direct the Archivist of the US to certify and publish the ERA as the 28th Amendment.

If you would like to see what members of Congress have already signed Discharge Petition #6, go to

<https://clerk.house.gov/DischargePetition/2023071806?CongressNum=118>

We understand that Nick LaLota (NY01), Anthony D'Esposito (NY04), and Nicole Malliotakis (NY11) are also being targeted here in NY by those hoping to see the ERA in the Constitution.

We are only about 5-6 votes short of HJ Res 25 passing in the House.

The pressure is on to get the legislation passed by the end of June or the opportunity will fade quickly.

Further contact information is at <https://molinaro.house.gov/contact/> for Molinaro and at <https://lawler.house.gov/contact/> for Lawler.

UNTIL JUSTICE JUST IS

EMAIL: COMMS@YWCAULSTERCOUNTY


THURSDAY, MAY 30TH AT 4PM
200 MANSION ST. POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
(EXEMPT FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION)

STAND AGAINST RACISM

POUGHKEEPSIE

RALLY WITH US AS WE EMPOWER EACH OTHER TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST RACISM

RALLY STAND FIGHT LOVE



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Editor's Note:

We want you to know that we welcome your feedback with regard to anything you read in this newsletter, or items that you would like to see. We're here for you and would like to hear from you. Contact info@lwvmidhudson.org. Thanks.
Next Newsletter deadline is June 24th.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing

on our website lwvmidhudson.org

info@lwvmidhudson.org

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