

Like

Tweet

+1



Newsletter July 2024

Table of Contents (When viewing the entire newsletter you can click on the title to go directly to that item)

- Action Items
- The Prez says...
- Environmental Impact
- News Items
- Editor's Note

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-

July

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

July 3rd

12:00 PM

LWV Mid-Hudson Membership Committee Meeting

Zoom link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82525444407?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82525444407?pwd=K7bTXgUbH6mKNaDLCiXar4kbTOmckg.1)

[pwd=K7bTXgUbH6mKNaDLCiXar4kbTOmckg.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82525444407?pwd=K7bTXgUbH6mKNaDLCiXar4kbTOmckg.1)

July 8th

1:45 PM

Book Club

[Enzo's](#)

Kingston

July 12th

12 PM

Dutchess County Meetup

[Mahoney's](#)

Poughkeepsie

July 16th
Board Only Meeting
4 to 7 PM
[198 Reservoir Rd.Marlboro](#)
845-236-7288

July 19th
12 PM
Southern Tier Meeting
[Silk Factory](#)
Newburgh



The Prez Says



The Annual Meeting on June 20th gave us a lot of happy memories and much to think about. The Redeemer Lutheran Church was welcoming and we were blessed with lively and interesting music from Pat Lamanna (with help from Richard Mattocks) and a moving narrative and poem from Kate Hymes about

her mother's experiences voting in Louisiana years ago.

The women's suffrage struggle that Pat sang about and the challenges that Kate's mother faced brought right to mind the challenges of this year's election and the continuing attempts by some to prevent others from voting. We can't help but feel anxious about November 5th and the days beyond.

Keeping partisan thoughts aside isn't easy as we register voters, provide voter information, moderate candidate events and are otherwise deeply engaged in the whole process. But we know that staying above the fray is what makes us essential. And as I said in my welcome message on the 20th, I am impressed by how well we are rising to that challenge even in this year when both our democracy and the planet are at stake.

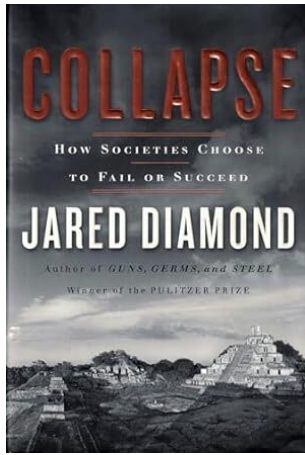
The League has been nonpartisan since its founding 104 years ago, but it's never been harder.

Printed information from the Annual Meeting will be posted on the [website](#), soon. Included will be the slate of nominees which also shows who on the past board is continuing.

Dues were collected for the new year that begins on July 1st, and if you haven't sent yours, please do so as soon as possible. The budget for 2024-25 that was mailed to all members in late May was adopted, and it will be posted on the website in early July along with final figures for the 2023-24 year that is now ending.

I end with thanks to all who helped make the Annual Meeting such a happy event, whether you brought food and drink, hauled tables and chairs, or otherwise served - like the heroic Mr. Sandor who secretly listened to the meeting from the kitchen and washed up all the dishes! Special thanks, of course, to all who serve all year. Buckle up!

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



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

July 8th

1:45 PM

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

Our book for Monday, July 8th, 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



Equal Rights for All - Update

by Louise Reavis

As expected, the proposed New York State Constitutional ERA Amendment was put back on the November ballot after a unanimous ruling by a state appellate court.

The amendment had been removed from the ballot in May when a judge ruled that the state legislature had not followed the appropriate procedure in passing it. This ruling was overturned by the appellate court so now the League can move full steam ahead in our collaborative effort with New Yorkers for Equal Rights in educating the public about the amendment and ensuring that all voters understand the importance of passing it.

The New York ERA would significantly strengthen the protection of current laws aimed at giving women reproductive freedom as well as prohibit discrimination by government agencies that is related to gender, disability, age, ethnicity and sex or gender expression.

The Mid Hudson ERA task force is currently planning one or several in person get-togethers to write postcards to prospective voters in targeted counties who have been identified as being “persuadable” on this issue. Also, we will be networking with other groups to facilitate the passage of this important initiative and to get out the vote.

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



Louise Reavis & Fay Casatuta toast after "Suffs"

Thank You and Welcome!

by Dare Thompson

The annual meeting is always a time when a few board members leave and a few more come aboard. While Louise Reavis of Monroe and Kathie Bienkafner of Clintondale will be leaving the board, we are grateful that they will still be active in League work as their time allows and we thank them both for their service.

Louise has been instrumental in building our new League presence in Orange County and has worked conscientiously and cheerfully on voter registration, civics education with high schoolers, visits with legislators, and other voting-related activities. She has also been helping to educate the public about the NY ERA that will be on this fall's ballot, and intends to continue with that.

Kathie has brought her expertise as a NYS licensed professional geologist to various environmental efforts and interests of the League and has served her community as a member of the Plattekill planning board and more recently as the board chair of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. We will

continue to rely on her knowledge and insights and hope to see her often at meet-ups and other social events too.

Thank you both, Louise and Kathie!

We asked our two new board members, Fay Casatuta of Wappingers Falls and Anne Sandor of Warwick, to share brief bios about themselves as we all get to know them better-

Fay Casatuta has been a member of the League since 2021, and is inspired by its mission of advocacy, education, and action. She holds a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University in Boston and before retiring enjoyed a long and rewarding career in Research and Development at IBM that took her from Austin, TX to Danbury, CT to Poughkeepsie. Fay has a strong sense of social responsibility, a desire to serve the community and work towards change. She volunteered with Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson for over 30 years, eventually serving on its Board of Directors. Fay also served on the Board of Directors for the Green Chimneys School in Brewster. She currently serves as President for the Friends of the East Fishkill Community Library. In her spare time, Fay enjoys reading, cooking, needlepoint, and is a self-professed political junkie.

Anne Sandor is a retired associate professor of English at SUNY Orange in Middletown, NY, where she taught Contemporary Novel and Creative Writing Fiction. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, she holds a BA from Vassar College and an MFA from Vermont College. A poet and fiction writer, her work has appeared in numerous publications. Her poem, "The Last Supper," appeared in the anthology, *Strange Fruit: Poems on the Death Penalty*. It has always been her fervent belief that literature fosters understanding and empathy. This is why she values her new experiences working with the League to register young voters because it enables her to connect with students and have those very real conversations about the importance and value of voting and taking part in the democratic process.

Welcome Fay and Anne! We are glad you'll be with us as we approach an historic fall election season and plan many efforts for the year ahead.



LWVMHR Rachel Zollner, Mary Missere, Leslie Simons

Regional Meetup Groups

Southern Tier:

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

We are going to be focusing, heavily, on Voter Services and educating groups about the upcoming ballot initiative for the New York State Constitutional Amendment for Equal Rights for All! Our next meeting will be at the [Silk Factory](#) in Newburgh, on July 19th at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Dutchess County

The next regular meeting will be on July 12th, 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



Don't forget to check out the most recent report about the Dutchess County Legislative Meeting. Our League Observer, Jane Simpkin Smith, noted some interesting discussions with the public on solid waste issues and homelessness.

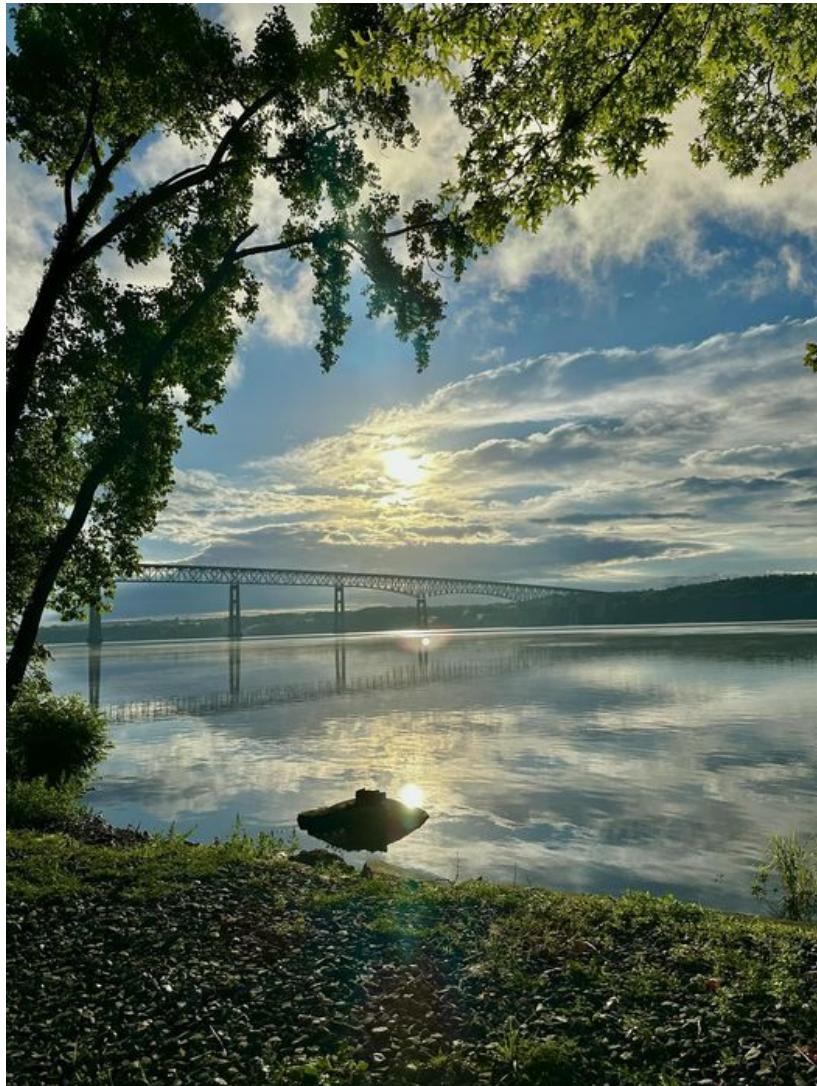
These reports can be found, soon, on our NEW Website -
<https://lwvmidhudson.org/>

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

Environmental Impact

**WITH HUDSON RIVER 5-YEAR REVIEW APPROACHING, CONGRESSMEN
RYAN AND MOLINARO URGE EPA TO RULE THAT ADDITIONAL PCB
CLEAN-UP IS NEEDED**

Read more about this important bi-partisan issue [HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

News



League Members on Broadway

A group of the LWV Mid-Hudson Region members & friends attended the Broadway Musical "Suffs" and enjoyed this novel way of learning about the women's fight for the vote! Afterwards, we went to dinner together and talked about how great the show was. It has since won two Tony awards!

We highly recommend this timely show!



LWVMHR Members attend Dutchess County Naturalization Ceremony

by Pat Lamanna

As often happens, I forgot to take any pictures at the last Dutchess County naturalization ceremony. It took place on June 7 at Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie. 53 new citizens were sworn in, and Richard Mattocks and I gave them packets with registration forms, "First Vote" pamphlets, Vote 411 cards, and more. Three people filled out their registration forms and handed them to us. We brought them straight to the Board of Elections on our way home. It was an inspiring experience.

The next ceremony is tentatively scheduled for August 2. If you're interested in participating, contact me at patla42@gmail.com.



League Attends Presentations at TriValley High School

The LWVMHR continues to stay involved with the unique program of "Civics and Social Justice" classes taught by Matthew Haynes and Tyler Eckhoff at TriValley High School in Grahamsville. This year, their students presented on the work they did to address issues like extracurricular student activities, making new students feel welcome, and improving diet and student choices in the cafeteria. The League tries to provide resources to the students and always enjoys seeing how the young people progress from researching issues to implementing their ideas on how to help their communities!





2024 LWVMHR Annual Meeting

Put another great League Annual Meeting in the books! On June 20th the members met at Redeemer Lutheran Church in New Paltz to listen to original Suffrage music, played by Pat Lamanna and Richard Mattocks. They were also treated to an interesting reading, by Kate Hymes, about her parents experiences in the armed services, with Unions, and fighting for Civil Rights in the 40's and 50's. That was followed up with a moving poem written by Kate's mom that reminded us that we haven't come far with issues of racism.

The League members welcomed guests, ate from a well laden table of goodies, and voted for new officers. A program of our own Mid-Hudson League History, by Cindy Bell, had to be put on hold- but watch for an upcoming invitation to see it soon!





PhotoScan by Google Photos

June 13, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warwick Valley High School junior Christian Katzabanis recently attended the Students Inside Albany conference, held May 19-22 and sponsored by the League of Women Voters, New York and the local chapter, LWV Mid-Hudson Region.

Christian was one of 60 high school students from all over the state to participate in the 4 day conference, designed to immerse students in the process by which public policy is proposed, enacted and changed in New York state and educate them as to how they can influence and affect this process.

Christian toured the state Capitol and the Court of Appeals and visited Assemblymember Karl Brabenec in the Legislative Office Building. He viewed the Assembly in session and joined State Senator James Skoufis in closed door meetings. Finally Christian and the other students heard presentations describing the role of media in covering political news and how to

effectively advocate to legislators around issues that are important to them.

Christian said he enjoyed the conference and was impressed by how the experience showed him that legislators are “ordinary people” he could talk to, not “someone up on a pedestal.”

He said going to Albany clarified his plans for the future which include going to law school and eventually being involved in government, either by running for office or working in government administration.

He also was happy that while in Albany he was able to take advantage of New York’s law allowing 16 year olds to register to vote. He looks forward to casting his first ballot after turning 18 next year. He says that issues important to him include improving NY state recycling methods and improving sustainable solid waste disposal.

LWV New York sponsors the Students Inside Albany program every spring and pays the entire cost for one student from each local chapter. The LWV is a non-partisan citizen activist organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. PO Box 3564, Kingston, NY 12402 845-340-2003 www.lwvmidhudson.org

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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 July 21st.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing on our website lwvmidhudson.org

info@lwvmidhudson.org

lwvmidhudson.org

©2024 LWV Mid-Hudson | PO Box 3564, Kingston NY 12402

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by [Mad Mimi®](#)

A GoDaddy® company