

Like



Newsletter February 2021



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...](#)
- [Welcome New Members!](#)
- [Recent Events](#)
- [Concurrence](#)
- [Environmental Impact: a series by Cindy Bell](#)
- [Editor's Note](#)

Action Items

Take a self guided Sojourner Truth Virtual



Sojourner Truth courtesy of the National Women's History Museum

Walking Tour

Part of Black history Month Kingston, this is available online **through February 28th**. With a narration you can read or listen to, it has a map to take you to 10 places from Port to Ewan to Kingston. You could take the tour walking or driving but for those unable to make the physical tour the online experience also shows photos of the different stops. No fee. [CLICK HERE](#) to join the tour.

LWVMHR Board Meeting

For Members Only. Via Zoom, **Tuesday February 23rd, 6-8 p.m.** Join fellow members to learn more about the workings of your League and opportunities to effect the change you would like to see. Members may contact lwvmidhudson@gmail.com to obtain the link to join this meeting. Please consider joining the LWVMHR Board, any member is welcome to observe any board meeting. A number of openings will be available in July. Write to lwvmidhudson@gmail.com to indicate your interest.



LWVMHR Program Planning Meeting

For Members Only. **Thursday, February 25th 6-8 p.m.** via zoom. This is an essential part of the League's work as members plan the coming year's events, upcoming advocacy issues and

educational opportunities. Is there something you feel the League, either at the local, state or national level, should have on its agenda, this is your chance to come and say so. Email lwvmidhudson@gmail.com for the link. You can join by computer, smart phone, tablet or by landline.

TMI Project Presents Black Stories Matter - online.

Thursday February 25th 7-8:30 p.m.
in partnership with Black History Month Kingston. This segment of Inside Black Stories Matter, a storytelling and roundtable discussion series that marries the personal and the political with ideas for direct action for antiracism, will feature storyteller

Victorious Ritter Snow and special guest Albert Cook, to discuss Black history in the Hudson Valley. Contact info@tmiproject.org for a link to the online event.



Concurrence on New York Health Care

Zoom event, **Tuesday March 2nd, 6:30 - 8 p.m.** See article below for details. This online event is open to all, please pass the information on to non members who may be interested, but note that only LWVMHR members can vote on accepting or rejecting the position statements. Contact lwvmidhudson@gmail.com to register for the event. You can join by computer, smart phone or tablet or by landline.

The League has no position on the situation below, but we include it thinking that you might be interested.

Central Hudson Rate Hike

Citizens for Local Power is out there fighting for us with Central Hudson which is planning a rate hike for consumers and to increase their shareholder dividends - in the midst of this pandemic..!



In 2018 Citizens for Local Power, a local nonprofit dedicated to helping communities switch to sustainable energy, managed, for the first time in history, to reduce the basic electric rate, and to keep the overall increases lower. But they could only do this with enormous support from the other groups and the community, especially individuals.

The Public Service Commission needs to hear your story, the reason why you cannot afford to pay any more for electricity, and especially if you are using the current moratorium to delay paying your bill. You can [CLICK HERE](#) to write your story, or tell the PSC why they should not increase the rate directly. Please pass this to friends and neighbors, especially those who have been hit hard financially by the virus.

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

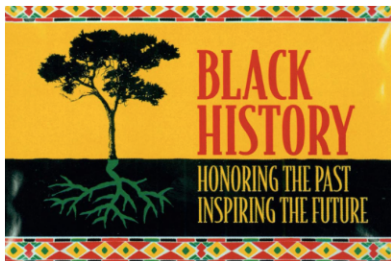
The Prez says...

Black History Month began in 1915 as Negro History Week by historian Carter

Woodson in order to highlight the accomplishments by Black Americans overlooked by American society at large. The month of February was chosen because it contained birthdays of two major influencers of African American culture, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. It was expanded to Black History Month as we know it in 1976 by President Gerald Ford to spotlight the many contributions made by Black Americans in the past as well as the present.



We have sadly missed attending in person the many wonderful community events normally held this month across our region to celebrate Black history. Its culture, foods, traditions and all manner of the arts. Fortunately we have Zoom to help compensate to some degree. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the many activities presented through Black History Month in Kingston.



Courtesy of Wilmington College

I invite you to take this opportunity to learn something new about each other, as we all become enriched by it. You might learn about the accomplishments of several women of color and their contributions to today's environmental science fields elsewhere in this newsletter.

You will notice two Members Only events on our calendar. Those are our LWV Mid-Hudson Board meeting and our Program Planning meeting. Our Concurrence meeting is open to non-members, but only members can vote. Please make an effort to attend both of

the last two. They are two occasions when members' input is required in order to form the organization's platforms. There is no need to do homework beforehand, as all will be explained at the meetings and voting will take place at the conclusion. Till next month.

Cindy Bell, President
LWV Mid-Hudson Region

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

Welcome New Members!

We want to welcome three new members to the LWV Mid-Hudson: Maureen Roche of Middletown, Maggie Veve of New Paltz, and Margaret Whalen of Poughkeepsie. Glad to have them aboard.

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

Recent Events

How to Run for Public Office

January 23rd, the LWV Mid-Hudson held a very successful program on "How to Run for Public Office." It was very well attended. Ulster County Board of Commissioners Ashley Dittus (D) and John Quigley (R) kicked off the event with a powerpoint presentation they developed together. You can view that by

[CLICKING HERE](#). You can read a fuller description of the event on our website, by [CLICKING HERE](#).

If you'd like to take a look at the recording of the event, it's available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Ranked Choice Voting

On February 9th, LWV member Dave Heller, along with Green Party gubernatorial candidate Howie Hawkins and attorney Julia Muench, gave a presentation on the methodology and values of Ranked Choice Voting to a very interested audience on Zoom. [CLICK HERE](#) for the recording on our Youtube channel

For a detailed description of Ranked Choice Voting and what is currently going on in New York and in our region, [CLICK HERE](#) for an article on our website.

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

Concurrence



The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization, so you may wonder how its positions on various issues and policies are developed. It is highly democratic, so it does not develop these positions without making sure members are knowledgeable and that a majority are in agreement. This is done through a “study” - a process of formally investigating and discussing the issue from all sides that

produces at the end a formal statement related to the issue. You can read more about the study process on our website by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Studies can take place at the national, state or local level, usually leading to a basis for political action. The agreement on the position is arrived at by a “sense of the group” based on discussion, an exchange of ideas and opinions, and can be reached by either Consensus or Concurrence. If the decision is to reach the position by Concurrence, the discussion is based on a previously agreed position statement, researched and constructed by a Study Committee and approved by the appropriate Board. Most of our Concurrence issues come from the New York state League. Following the open discussion, members vote to either accept the statement or not with no changes or additions made to the statement. Although the discussion is open to all, only members can vote.



On Tuesday March 2nd LWVMHR will hold a Concurrence on two positions concerning Health Care. The first updates the NYS League’s last position on Health Care adopted in 1991, and takes into account

the proposed New York Health Act. The second is an updated position on the financing of health care in NYS, again in light of the New York Health Act proposals. There is a wealth of information about these positions on the LWV state [website](#) but Kate Hymes, who will lead the discussion, will have prepared materials that will give participants an understanding of the statements and the issues involved.

Health care is an enormous question mark that overshadows everyone's lives, not just in this time of Covid. The NY Health Act would be a huge step forward in creating a single payer system that covers everyone in the state. The League is an important voice in Albany, and we are part of that voice, so we hope you will check out the information online and join the discussion on March 2nd at 6:30pm. You do not even have to leave your house to take part! Email lwvmidhudson@gmail.com to register for the zoom or to leave comments or questions.

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

Environmental Impact: a series by Cindy Bell

This month's focus is on the amazing contributions of these four women of color. Thanks go to Blueland.com for bringing these to our attention. Future editions will provide environmental tips and knowledge everyone can use.

Read on....



Leah Penniman

[Leah Penniman](#) is the Co-Founder and Director of Soul Fire Farm in upstate New York. With over 20 years of farming experience, Leah is working to help others achieve food sovereignty. Soul Fire Farm is an “Afro-Indigenous centered community farm” that distributes fresh food, provides training to Black and Brown farmers, and helps with land reparation initiatives.

[Majora Carter](#) is an urban revitalization strategist. Her work focuses on bringing green spaces to all communities, focused on the inner city, like her home in the South Bronx. Carter brought the first open-waterfront park to the South Bronx in over 60 years, as just one of her many projects and initiatives to bring green spaces to communities who need them. Learn more about Majora Carter and her work in the South Bronx in her [Ted Talk](#).



[Marjorie Eugene-Richard](#) was at the forefront of the Environmental Justice movement. Born and raised in Southern Louisiana, Richard found herself no stranger to the effects of pollution. Richard grew up in Old Diamond, now known as part of “cancer alley”. The area was between a chemical plant and oil refinery, and the town’s primarily Black residents experienced high rates of respiratory disease, cancer and birth defects. Richard spent 13 years fighting for accountability for her community, finally winning a settlement. She is the first Black American to receive the Goldman Environmental Prize.

[Dr. Ayana Johnson](#) is a marine biologist, founder and author. Her work is focused on the impact of climate change on the ocean and how that can impact communities of color. She recently co-edited "All We Can Save", an anthology of essays written by



women fighting climate change, and co-hosts the podcast [How to Save A Planet](#), where she tackles explaining complex climate issues.

[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 lwvmidhudson@gmail.com. Thanks.

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

lwvmidhudson@gmail.com

lwvmidhudson.org



©2021 LWV Mid-Hudson | PO Box 3564, Kingston NY 12402

[Web Version](#) [Forward](#) [Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by [Mad Mimi®](#)
A GoDaddy® company

