



Newsletter February 2022

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## Action Items

Join LWV partners - LetNYVote-  
and learn how to lobby your  
representatives:

Tuesday, February 1st, 5:30pm

Please Register [here](#)



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**LWVMHR Book Club Meeting**

Due to concerns about COVID,



the Book Club isn't going to meet, in person, this month. We do have some reading suggestions for the membership at large, to prepare for when it is safe to gather for discussion:

"THE SICKNESS IS THE SYSTEM:  
WHEN CAPITALISM FAILS TO SAVE US FROM PANDEMICS OR ITSELF"  
By Richard D. Wolff

"DEMOCRACY AT WORK: A CURE FOR CAPITALISM"  
By Richard Wolff

"THE HISPANIC REPUBLICAN- THE SHAPING OF AN AMERICAN  
POLITICAL IDENTITY, FROM NIXON TO TRUMP" By Geraldo Cadava

We encourage members to seek out the book selections through the library system or purchase from local book sellers.

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The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region has been active in encouraging members to support local Black History Month initiatives.

COVID concerns have limited offerings but some options can be found [on Face Book](#)





## Upcoming League Meeting Schedule

All members welcome!

Topic: LWVMHR Membership  
Committee

Time: Feb 8, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern  
Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85663707068?  
pwd=VXZZQUlzejhWQno1aUROUk1aQXpzQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85663707068?pwd=VXZZQUlzejhWQno1aUROUk1aQXpzQT09)

Topic: LWVMHR Program Committee

Time: Feb 10, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87431875008?  
pwd=ekVTck5yTElydmRYR3pvQ1hYTnROdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87431875008?pwd=ekVTck5yTElydmRYR3pvQ1hYTnROdz09)

Topic: LWVMHR Board Meeting

Time: Feb 15, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85679370669?  
pwd=Z2lTdVJ2ekU1TXVnUFBUTmNCZ24zUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85679370669?pwd=Z2lTdVJ2ekU1TXVnUFBUTmNCZ24zUT09)

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### The Prez says...

Prez Says

February 2022

I hope you are all staying cozy and warm during this brisk winter weather. This year has brought with it some really positive changes for our League, as we are looking at a new hybrid style of working together. Another COVID variant has kept us online, though I am optimistic that we can meet in person, at least some of the time, in the near term. Because our members are from a large geographic area, board meetings will remain online for the foreseeable future, as will committee meetings. The three events we held in January- [Election Security](#), [Running for Public Office](#), and a very well-attended [Current State of Prosecution in Ulster County](#) were wonderful. Collaborating with the AAUW for the State of Prosecution was the beginning of several joint ventures and was a positive experience for one and all. If you would like to help plan an event for your local area, please let us know. Better yet, attend one of our Program Committee meetings to learn how we can make it happen together.



The biggest news this month is that we have hired a webmaster to update and enhance our online presence. We chose to go with Cheryl Henderson Khalid, recommended by President Regina Goutevenier of the Nassau County ILO (Inter-League Organization- encompassing several Leagues on Long Island). Cheryl is a consummate and pleasant professional who has agreed to take care of our basic website needs for a very reasonable 'League' cost. Thank you, Cheryl and thank you Regina and thank you, LWVNY! Our State League really supports our local work in actual, helpful ways. I am most grateful for the President's Google Group, organized by state leadership. The other presidents are incredibly kind, supportive and helpful whenever I lose my way or need a little advice.

I'm also grateful for our wonderful Board for helping to keep our League going in these challenging times. Please consider joining one of our committees or sit in on our monthly board meetings. Make a difference and get involved! You won't be sorry you did.

Check our website for upcoming events. We'll be refreshed again as soon as Cheryl begins her work.

In League,  
Cindy Bell

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## [News Items](#)

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### **Redistricting Still A Problem in New York State**

Check out this interactive Redistricting Map that shows the proposed changes done by the Legislature and NOT done with the public input garnered by the Independent Redistricting Commission (see the League of Women Voters of New York State, below): [MAP](#)

"The people of New York should be outraged by the recent inaction of the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). By not working together and instead, maintaining partisan allegiances, the Commissioners disregard the thousands of hours spent by citizens to provide input on proposed redistricting lines that reflect their communities. The Commissioners chose to ignore their constitutional obligation to propose maps that are in the best interests of the State and its voters. The League of Women Voters believes that the IRC exemplified the worst of state government as it torpedoed the redistricting reforms approved by voters in 2014."



## Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Wins Composting Award



Each year, the US Composting Council recognizes the Best of the Best in the compost manufacturing and organics recycling industries. On their website, USCC describes the prestige of their annual awardees as “these winners have given generously of their time and talent to further the compost industry and to protect the environment for future generations.” The Small-Scale Compost Manufacturer of the Year Award is awarded to a small-scale composting facility in the US (< 10,000 tons per year throughout), public or private sector, which has displayed excellence in both compost production and marketing/distribution. UCRRA is the proud recipient of the 2021 Small Scale Composter of the Year Award!



## DID YOU KNOW...

We have an archive of videos done by our local LWV Mid-Hudson on YouTube? You can access them [here](#).

Did you miss our interview with Ulster County District Attorney David Clegg, about Judicial Prosecution and Social Justice? Check it out [here](#)!

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## Environmental Impact

### Agrivoltaics and Small Scale Farming



So many farmers are struggling to keep themselves afloat today. The average age of a farmer in the US is 57.5 years and starting to look toward retirement. Fewer young people are looking to make their livelihood in farming because it is demanding work without sufficient financial reward. Small farmers struggle to make ends meet. Large agribusinesses have taken over food production, but this type of farmland expansion often ends in soil depletion from lack of crop rotation or an inferior product that often contains unacceptable amounts of pesticides or is genetically modified in a way that degrades the quality of our food.



A real, viable solution to the problem is agrivoltaics, a process by which land is used simultaneously for photovoltaic power generation and agriculture. Solar panels can be installed over livestock grazing lands, providing shade and protection from the elements, while allowing grasses to grow and thrive. They can also be installed over food crops. Agrivoltaic farming is now used in the western United States to stave off drought by reducing water needs while creating a cooler microclimate at the ground level for more successful harvests. New York State, especially its western segment, is already poised for an agrivoltaic revolution, marrying renewable energy and farmland and keeping farmers financially viable while supporting our need for sustainable and reliable power. It is an elegant solution for a serious problem.

We can thank Adolf Goetzberger and Armin Zastrow for this technique, conceived in 1981. The term agrivoltaic was coined in 2011.

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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 [lwvmidhudson@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmidhudson@gmail.com). Thanks.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing on our website [lwvmidhudson.org](http://lwvmidhudson.org).



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