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**Action Items**

**Be Involved with  
Your Local League!**

**NYSLWV Zoom on  
New York's Climate  
Leadership &  
Community  
Protection Act  
April 7th (Thursday)  
7pm**



Learn more about this 2019 New York State Law that is the most aggressive climate and clean energy initiative in the nation!

Please register [HERE](#)

### **Membership Committee Meeting**

April 13th (Wednesday) 2pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82329104353?pwd=WUluRG1Uc2ZrdGpIVXhPbEZFOW5jdz09#success>

### **Program Committee Meeting**

April 13th (Wednesday)

6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832057057?pwd=cDVYc0VPWTBzNHFFWTBtNEtxK0tmdz09#success>

### **LWVMHR Members Only Concurrence Meeting!**

Make your voice heard within the League by attending this virtual event where we will learn about two issues up for concurrence vote this year. One is regarding allowing Incarcerated Individuals to Vote and the other is Election Administration Structure.

At the meeting, all materials will be explained with slides and discussion, then you will be asked to vote on each separately. While a concurrence vote expresses the general view of the group, differences of opinion and comments will be included in the vote report to LWVNY.

Study materials will be available on the [website](#), so you can check them out before the meeting.

### **LWVMHR 2022 Concurrence Meeting**

April 14th (Thursday)

6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86470839028?>

[pwd=eHEyeW5FMURRNkRrZy8vcnVxRnFIZz09#success](#)

### **LWVMHR Board Meeting**

April 19th (Tuesday) 6:00pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87829733070?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87829733070?pwd=aktDQVlQRTNmb2I5VnhONC9qcZlaUT09)

[pwd=aktDQVlQRTNmb2I5VnhONC9qcZlaUT09](#)

April 23rd (Saturday)

Esopus Earth Day

LWVMHR Voter Registration Table

Esopus Town Hall

1 Town Hall Way

Ulster Park, NY

10:00am - 3:00pm

May 14th (Saturday)

Kingston Earth Day Fair

LWVMHR Voter Registration Table

Forsythe Park

Lucas Ave., Kingston

10:00am - 4:00pm

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### **LWVMHR Book Club Meeting**

**We're Back!!!!!!Mark your  
May Calendar!**

From Daisy Tyler:

"We're planning to have an in  
**person** meeting on  
Wednesday, May 11th,  
1: 45 pm at [Enzo's](#) in  
Kingston. Members in



attendance will decide the books to read for the rest of the year."

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

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## Tackling New York's Climate Emergency

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019 commits to 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040, and a reduction of at least 85% below 1990-level GHG emissions by 2050.

Join LWVNY and experts from [Environmental Advocates NY](#) on Thursday, April 7th, 7pm, as we discuss the roadmap for accomplishing this ambitious goal.

Register in advance here: <https://bit.ly/3uf6X4X>



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## The Prez says...

Prez Says  
March 2022



March always brings the promise of spring and the possibility of a blizzard. We're working around the house, cleaning up and sprucing up, albeit with muck boots on. Inside, League work goes on with legislative visits, an email blizzard of board communications, and exciting new plans and ideas.

[The Solid Waste Solutions meeting](#) with AAUW was an unqualified success. We had more than 50 participants on Zoom and the panel was incredibly knowledgeable and generous, as they patiently explained new tech and upcoming plans for Ulster County. Our League members in Dutchess are gearing up to assist in the solid waste programs in their county, armed with more understanding and ideas about what is possible. Pat Lamanna, new member Johanna Fallert, and Emilie Hauser teamed up to write a public statement to Dutchess County's Division of Solid Waste Management. The statement has been sent on behalf of our League and signed off by the LWVMHR. If anyone is interested the statement, please send an email to [midhudsonlww@gmail.com](mailto:midhudsonlww@gmail.com) and copy of the statement will be provided.

We will be participating in two different Earth Day events this

year- doing what we do best, with voter registration information and educational resources available at our table. We still have some spaces open for voter service volunteers to pick up a shift at the Esopus Town Hall, Port Ewen on April 23 from 10:00am to 3:00pm or at [Forsyth Park in Kingston](#) from 10:00am until 4:00pm on May 14th. This is a good opportunity to help out for the first time, as experienced League voter service volunteers will be available throughout the events. It's a chance to spend time with kindred spirits and ease into getting together in person once again. Both events are planned for the outdoors.

The Members Only Concurrence Meeting is still planned for this month, though we've had a change because of a competing and important event. The meeting is now scheduled on April 14th.

In League,  
Cynthia (Cindy) Bell

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## News Items



### Government Watchdog Groups Push for Ethics Reform

[WAMC story](#) by  
Karen Dewitt

Government watchdog groups are making a push to include ethics reform in the New York state budget. Governor Kathy Hochul promised to overhaul the state's troubled ethics oversight commission, but so far, the proposal has not been agreed to by the Legislature.

Hochul, who took over when former Governor Andrew Cuomo resigned amid multiple scandals, promised to “blow up” the troubled state ethics commission. Cuomo controlled the majority of appointments on the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, or JCOPE, and critics say in return, the commission protected him from ethics violations.

Evan Davis, a reform advocate who was former Governor Mario Cuomo's counsel, says the state has faced continuing ethical challenges that need to stop.

“New York has a serious problem,” Davis said. “We have recurring, high-level corruption, and we have an ethics enforcement agency that is so lax that people call it a joke.”

Davis says the reputation for corruption hurts New York's ability to grow businesses and jobs and to foster public trust in government.

The government reform groups outlined an alternative plan for an ethics commission.

Laura Ladd Bierman of the New York State League of Women Voters says the plan would create a seven-member selection committee. The governor, leaders of the Legislature, the state comptroller and attorney general would each get one seat on that committee. That body would then choose a five-member ethics commission that would handle ethics complaints and

potential violations of the law. She says having a two-step process helps to further insulate commission members from any possible influence by politicians.

She says unlike the current structure, where the governor chooses the executive director of the ethics panel, the new commission would choose its own leader.

“Just to flag, the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, the chair is selected by the governor,” Bierman said. “That would no longer happen under our model.”

Members of the public could apply to serve on the commission, but lobbyists, big-money donors to political campaigns and those holding contracts with the state would be banned.

The proposed commission would also be better equipped to handle accusations of sexual harassment. Erica Vladimer is with the Sexual Harassment Working Group, which is made up of former and current legislative staff who have experienced or reported sexual harassment. She says her group offered advice on how to create a commission that is more receptive to investigating harassment complaints.

“Public employees can no longer wait for elected and appointed officials to finally be held accountable for abuse of power,” Vladimer said. “We know how interconnected different types of corruption and abuse of power can be.”

Vladimer accused former state Senate Leader Jeff Klein of forcibly kissing her, a charge Klein denied. JCOPE began an investigation in 2018, and has never revealed any details about the probe or said whether it is continuing.



Hochul's proposal, released in the Democrat's state budget plan, would set up a rotating board of 15 law school deans to decide cases. The Legislature rejected that idea.

Davis says the groups presented their plan to lawmakers last week, and he says legislators were receptive. Democrats in the Senate discussed its merits in a closed-door party conference meeting. He says that's encouraging.

"They asked questions, which is good," Davis said. "They showed interest, which is good."

Blair Horner with the New York Public Interest Research Group and a WAMC commentator, says the new ethics commission should be included in the state budget, because it involves changes to and funding for a state agency. But he says groups will not accept any plan that is just a superficial reconfiguration of JCOPE.

"We don't want the deck chairs on the Titanic being rearranged," Horner said. "We want the real independent ethics commission that the public's been promised."

The budget is due on April 1st.

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**Solar Meets  
Pollinators**

**Large Scale  
Agrivoltaics!**

Join this webinar to  
learn more about this



exciting pairing of technology and bees. The webinar will be held Tuesday, April 12th from 6:00pm-7:30pm! The session will be reviewing findings of the recently published [Mount Morris Agrivoltaic Study](#).

[Register here!](#)

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### **Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Offers Vermicomposting Class**

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 4th, 12pm-1pm, and register for this FREE webinar to learn everything you need to know to get started with worm composting (vermicomposting). Reserve your spot by pre-registering [today!](#)



Vermicomposting (composting with worms) is a great way to compost indoors all year round, whether you live in an apartment, dorm, or a home. Vermicomposting is also a great option for group settings (composting in the classroom or composting in a work office). A properly established worm bin requires very little maintenance! By learning a few simple tips and tricks, anyone can be successful at this method of indoor

composting.



DID YOU KNOW...

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

You can see the final **New York State Redistricting Maps** at:  
<https://redistrictingonline.org/stateredistrictingalmanac/state-redistricting-info-new-york/>

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## Environmental Impact

Environmental  
Impact  
April 2022

The History of  
Earth Day

The reality of the  
price of  
industrialization

for our air and water were crystallized in 1962 when "Silent Spring", by Rachel Carson, was published and sold more than half a million copies in 24 countries. The book showed the relationship between the natural environment, public health and



how these things were linked to pollution. Until then, the smell of belching smokestacks was heralded as a sign of prosperity.

In 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin saw the anti-Vietnam war protests among college students as an opportunity to energize young people around the issue of pollution and its effect on humans. A massive oil spill in California gave the public attention needed to mobilize these students. A Teach-In was organized by Senator Nelson and Congressman Pete McCloskey. They engaged young activist, Denis Hayes, to teach at events. Hayes, who saw a bigger picture, hired 85 staff and brought the idea nationwide. Numerous colleges, towns and communities had events on the newly formed Earth Day. By the end of 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Air Act, Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the National Environmental Education Act were passed, followed by the Clean Water Act in 1972.

As the new millennium approached, Earth Day went global, via the internet and social media. The focus shifted to climate warming and continues today throughout the world in 190+ countries and educates millions to the pressing issues we now face.

Earth Day celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2020 and continues to fulfill its mission of education, activism and pursuit of its goals for clean air and water, as well as health and well being for humans, animals and for Mother Earth.

To find out more, go to [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) and see the current status or join the world's largest environmental organization.

To do more, join the League at an Earth Day event.

Cynthia Bell

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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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