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Action Items

**Be Involved with
Your Local League!**

MEETING DATES &
ZOOM LINKS-
MAY/JUNE 2022-
some events in
person!!



Topic: LWNYS
Advocacy Training
May 3rd, 7pm

Learn about the issues that the League will be lobbying on during the remaining legislative session. Learn how you can advocate &

lobby. Register [HERE](#) for the Zoom link.

Topic: LWVMHR Membership Committee Meeting

Time: May 10, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84188719906?
pwd=YVB2V0NDZzk3VUV1Z1pETVZ4ZWk1dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84188719906?pwd=YVB2V0NDZzk3VUV1Z1pETVZ4ZWk1dz09)

Meeting ID: 841 8871 9906

Passcode: 802584

Topic: Mental Health in the Hudson Valley

Time: May 11, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84106104788?
pwd=c0prU1FmYzlrQjd5YjFpS0ZhSHFPUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84106104788?pwd=c0prU1FmYzlrQjd5YjFpS0ZhSHFPUT09)

Meeting ID: 841 0610 4788

Passcode: 487574

Topic: Program Committee Meeting

Time: May 12, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84548092968?
pwd=UUJ6aUZqemtqVnZMQVNFcXAvZDINUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84548092968?pwd=UUJ6aUZqemtqVnZMQVNFcXAvZDINUT09)

Meeting ID: 845 4809 2968

Passcode: 574357

5/14/2022 **City of Kingston Earth Day 10:00am-4:00pm** [Forsyth Park](#)

Topic: LWVMHR Board Meeting

Time: May 17, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89780821455?
pwd=S08wQzdtTnYwZVltZmxKQVVFTjFIdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89780821455?pwd=S08wQzdtTnYwZVltZmxKQVVFTjFIdz09)

Meeting ID: 897 8082 1455

Passcode: 086540

Newsletter deadline 5/20/2022

Annual Meeting- In-person and via Zoom- 4:00p-6:00p

Topic: LWVMHR Annual Meeting at Locust Grove (Poughkeepsie)

Time: Jun 2, 2022 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83606011750?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83606011750?pwd=VGIrai8yZlNNM3hMUUNMWkxhd1RBQT09)

[pwd=VGIrai8yZlNNM3hMUUNMWkxhd1RBQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83606011750?pwd=VGIrai8yZlNNM3hMUUNMWkxhd1RBQT09)

Meeting ID: 836 0601 1750

Passcode: 231207

Topic: Bitcoin, Cryptocurrency and Blockchain- Promise or Peril?

Time: Jun 9, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86316568529?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86316568529?pwd=V0ROWEJ3bHdxeXZ2TE8vZFRRSmx1dz09)

[pwd=V0ROWEJ3bHdxeXZ2TE8vZFRRSmx1dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86316568529?pwd=V0ROWEJ3bHdxeXZ2TE8vZFRRSmx1dz09)

Meeting ID: 863 1656 8529

Passcode: 240506



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.

The State of Mental

Health Services in the Mid-Hudson Region Today

May 11th
7pm

Join us for this virtual presentation by Ulster County Mental Health Commissioner Tara McDonald and Jean-Marie Niebur, of Dutchess County Behavior & Community Health. Once again, the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region is joining the AAUW to sponsor this important informational event!

The link for the Zoom can be found here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84106104788?pwd=c0prU1FmYzIRQjd5YjFpS0ZhSHFPUT09>



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting is in Person!

Thursday June 2, 2022 - 4pm to 6pm

Locust Grove Estate in Poughkeepsie 2683 South Road (Route 9)

Conversation and business: reports, program, and elections.

Please contact Cindy Bell if you want to join the planning team.

Details will be in the May newsletter.

Guests are welcome. RSVP requested. Carpooling is encouraged.

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The Prez says...

Prez Says

April/May 2022

It's Earth Day as I write this - always a day of celebration for me! Our Mid-Hudson Region League had a spot at the Town of Esopus Earth Day. We brought voter registration and civic education information, notices of our upcoming programs and our smiling faces. Next up is Kingston's [Forsyth Park](#) Earth Fair on May 14th. It's always a lovely event and I hope anyone in the Kingston area will come see what's new and enjoy the atmosphere of optimism that always comes with the activist spirit. If you're feeling down due to all the bad news, join in the action. It's not just fun, it's therapeutic!



Our virtual upcoming programs on the State of Mental Health in the Mid-Hudson Region (May 11 at 7:00pm) and Bitcoin, Cryptocurrency & Blockchain- Promise or Peril? (June 9 at 7:00pm) will be most interesting. Who really knows what bitcoin is? Irene Weiser has a presentation that unlocks those mysteries as well as how these digital resources have an impact on our New York State's environment.

Mental Health is a huge issue these days, particularly for Ulster County residents, who have lost a major resource this past year. Find out what's still available and where the field stands today in the Hudson Valley.

It's also local school board season! Our League is moderating a number of candidate forums. Putnam, Kingston, and Greenville are a few to tune into. After a two-year hiatus, all events are in person this year. We've had to turn down one or two because we don't have enough moderators, so if you are thinking about becoming a League moderator, let us know. We are happy to schedule a training and would love to see you at an event just to see how it works. It is a very useful skill and really a lot of fun, too.

Finally, we are holding our Annual Meeting at [Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie](#) this year on June 2nd from 4:00-6:00pm. Our gathering starts off with a tour of the gardens, with the Master Gardener, and continues with the business section of the program at 4:30. Come enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded people working together to leave a positive footprint on our communities. We'll provide finger-food snacks on the patio and will enjoy our talented League entertainers. The event is free, though donations are welcome, as we are paying for this wonderful, historic, and centrally located venue. Come one, come all! (RSVP is a must. Please send your reservation to midhudsonlwv@gmail.com.)

It feels like we are coming out of a years-long hibernation. As we take our first tentative steps out, let's take them together.

*The photo is from the Esopus Earth Day Fair, where we met a young Girl Scout who is studying the "Bitcoin" issue for a Silver Award project!

In League,
Cynthia (Cindy) Bell

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News Items



League of Women Voters of New York State Memorandum of Support on "Bitcoin" Legislation

TO: Members of

the New York State Assembly
Members of or New York State Senate
DATE: March 21, 2022

Subject: Establishes a moratorium on cryptocurrency mining operations that use proof-of-work authentication methods to validate blockchain transactions

The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly supports A.7389C/S.6486C.

For decades the League of Women Voters has held positions urging vigilance in protecting air and water quality. "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health." The interest in cryptocurrency mining in New York has been growing exponentially. However,

cryptocurrency mining creates significant localized impacts in the communities where plants are located, and harms our climate. Proof of Work authentication for blockchain transactions presents potentially serious adverse environmental consequences including significant use of electrical energy. By vastly increasing the amount of electricity used, cryptocurrency mining leads to generation of substantial amounts of greenhouse gas emissions from burning of fossil fuels, the use of great volumes of water which are often returned to a waterbody such as Seneca Lake at a much hotter temperature, thereby affecting fishing, agriculture and the wine industry, the frequent replacement of supercomputers generating significant amounts of ewaste, and noise from fans running 24/7 that affects neighbors' quality of life and health. The rise of cryptocurrency mining threatens the state's compliance with our climate goals in law, under the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Additionally, use of renewable energy for cryptocurrency mining diverts these critical resources away from households and businesses in our state, moving us further from the aggressive renewable energy requirements we have in law. The League of Women Voters of New York State strongly urges your support of A.7389-C/S.6486-C.

(Join the LWVMHR/AAUW discussion on this issue on June 9th, 7pm at this Zoom link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86316568529?pwd=V0ROWEJ3bHdxeXZ2TE8vZFRRSmx1dz09>)



**LWVMHR
Concurrence on Two
Important Issues**

**CONCURRENCE
MEETING REPORT**

The meeting took
place virtually on

April 14th and the 12 participants had a lively discussion of the two topics. The first one we addressed was "Voting for All Incarcerated Individuals". All three counties were represented, including two members from Orange County. Discussion points by the group are bullet points and the final result has an asterisk.

Dare Thompson and Peg Nau presented arguments both for and against the proposed position, with most agreeing that the right to vote 'shall not be abridged' and that prisoners are still citizens. The 'anti' arguments were that convicted felons should have to give up their citizen rights as part of their felony punishment. The other point made was that those imprisoned should not be able to cancel out the votes of their victims, some of whom are no longer able to cast a vote. Degree of severity and types of crimes were considered as factors in the discussion. Also considered was the fact that civic engagement (voting responsibilities) should be taught in order to prepare inmates for life in society after prison.

*The broad attitude of the group was positive for the position presented on Voting for All Incarcerated Individuals.

Next up was the proposed position on Board of Elections Administration. This complex topic was well presented by Emilie Hauser, with study support by Cindy Bell. The following portions were broken down individually.

Do you concur with the Position Statement on State Election

Administration?

- The proposed single person in control of the State Board made a number of members nervous.
- The position is supposed to be non-partisan, but it was agreed that this would be difficult and that ultimately, the person in charge would be political in some sense, opening the door to partisan manipulation.
- It is felt that the position would have too much power.
- Experience matters and appointing someone with little knowledge of the BOE workings could cause problems.
- Finally, the two-party system of the state BOE does not allow for third-party participation in the process
- There is also no term length noted- this may affect the governance of the BOE.

*The members were mixed on this issue- half for and half against.

Do you concur with the Position Statement on Local Election Administration?

- The current two-party system generally works well in avoiding gridlock regarding local processes
- Commissioners are appointed by legislators with a lack of transparency and are not accountable to the public- they can be political and not public servants.
- Third parties are not supported.
- No term length is specified—this may affect the governance of the BOE.

*While most agreed with the statement, there were a number of reservations.

Do you concur with the Position Statement on Local and State Boards?

*There was broad support of this position with the caveat that an effort should be made to keep BOE leadership nonpartisan and grassroots as much as possible, again with open-ended terms

possible.

Thanks to all who participated in this very interesting program. A report of the result was sent to LWVNYS.

**The League of Women Voters of
the Mid-Hudson has a NEW Email
Address!**

Our new email address is:
midhudsonlww@gmail.com

Drop us a line or two - we'd love to
hear from you!



DID YOU KNOW...

We have an archive of videos done by
our local LWV 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/>

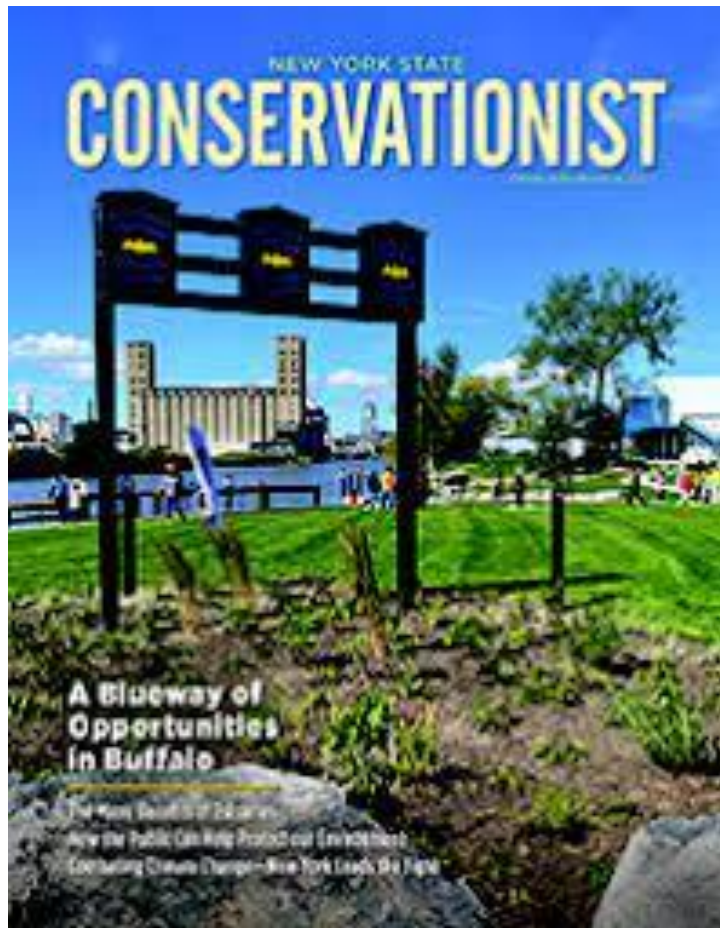
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Environmental Impact

Environmental

Impact
May 2022

The passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which became law in 2019, was a watershed moment in the State's comprehensive efforts to address this existential



challenge. The CLCPA is the most aggressive climate and clean energy initiative in the nation, putting New York on a path to reaching net zero GHG emissions by 2040. It provides a clear timeline for protecting the health and safety of all New Yorkers, addressing pollution and poor air quality, while promoting clean energy projects that will transform the State's economy and create economic opportunity.

Learn more about these efforts in this article in New York State's DEC's Conservationist

Magazine:https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/febmar22consmag.pdf

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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 midhudsonlww@gmail.com. Thanks.

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

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