



Newsletter June 2023

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The Prez says ...



I hope by the time you see this newsletter you have already received a paper mailing about the upcoming **Annual Meeting of our League on Thursday, June 15 from 5 – 7 at the [Starr Library](#) in Rhinebeck.**

There will be the usual important routine business

(elections, budget adoption, etc.), but what most of us especially look forward to is the happy socializing and good finger-food and drinks supplied mostly by our board. Of course, there will also be brief updates on League issues too. Please plan to join us!

Before that – from Friday eve, June 2, through Sunday morning, June 5 – several of us will be at the state LWV convention in Albany. One of the hot topics for discussion will be how to weigh into the selection of new voting machines. We have been watching for several years now how political an issue this can end up being.

The overuse of plastics in our lives will also be on everyone's mind as we are in the last days of our effort to get the state legislature to address this. If you haven't told you state senator and Assembly member of YOUR concern, do so soon. The bills we support are the Bigger Better Bottle Bill -BBBB (S237 May/A6353 Glick) and the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Act (S4246 Harckam/A5322 Glick). More details about legislative action will be coming to your email Friday – look for the subject line “Your Weekly Legislative Update from LWVNYS.” But call now. Go to <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/> to find contact info for you Assembly member and to <https://www.nysenate.gov/contact> to do the same about your senator.

While it's looking like the BBBB won't pass this session, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling legislation is still “alive,” so push that one especially. And we won't give up in June. We will continue to let our legislators know if they have disappointed us – and we'll try again in 2024. The plastics aren't going away and neither are we! Persistence!

And no matter what, I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting and share information about our successes and continuing

challenges!

Dare Thompson

845-236-3074 darethompson@gmail.com

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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-

June - July

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

June 2-4th

League of Women Voters

State Convention!

Albany -

Let Dare Thompson know if you'd like to attend

845-236-3074 or darethompson@gmail.com

June 7th

12:30 PM

LWV Mid-Hudson Membership Committee Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84179974295?>

[pwd=S1U0bEZ5TjFJcWp1UituUEVWcmw5dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84179974295?pwd=S1U0bEZ5TjFJcWp1UituUEVWcmw5dz09)

June 12th

1:45 PM

LWVMHR Book Club

[Enzo's Restaurant](#)

Kingston

June 15th

5-7pm

LWVMHR Annual Meeting

[Starr Library](#)

Rhinebeck



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

The Book we originally scheduled for May- "THE BILL OF OBLIGATIONS; THE TEN HABITS OF A GOOD CITIZENS" by

Richard Hass- was postponed for our June 12th meeting.

In his book, Richard Hass presents the most important questions about the meaning of Citizenship. If American Democracy is to endure, it will require us all to exercise our common obligations and responsibilities.

Please note that all Book Club Meetings are at [Enzo's Italian Restaurant](#) in Kingston the second Monday of each month, at

1:45pm.

Everyone is welcome - bring a friend! Come and have lunch and good conversation!

Hope to see you all next time!!

As always, we encourage members to borrow the book from the library or purchase from local booksellers.

Daisy Tyler

daisytyler68@hotmail.com



GETTING TO KNOW THEM...!

by Dare Thompson

The 2023 - 24 NYS

legislature is winding up its first session, but we still have two scheduled meetings with individual members and are hoping to have two more before session's end in mid-June. You are welcome to join us – just let us know you are interested if you haven't already done so.

On Friday, June 2 we will have an 11 AM Zoom meeting with Assembly member Aileen Gunther and on Monday, June 12 at 10 AM we will meet with Senator Rob Rolison in his office in Poughkeepsie. We are still hoping to catch Assembly member Didi Barrett and Senator Michelle Hinchey but don't have details yet.

Our thoughts after June will shift to the local county legislatures

where all members will be up for re-election – or are leaving and will be replaced by people running in the November election. (Ulster County is having a particularly large turnover.) We strongly recommend you try to attend a county legislative meeting in your county so you can become a better-informed voter in November. You will not only see some candidates in action, but you will get some sense of the issues they get involved in.

While meetings can be watched online, it is more helpful for you to see the body language and other details that you can only see in person. You also are less noticed by them if you aren't in person, and it's the in-person visitors that they especially notice – and we want them to KNOW they are being watched. It makes them behave better!

ULSTER County's legislature usually meets on 3rd Tuesdays in Kingston at 7 pm unless that day falls late that month and they meet instead on a second Tuesday. They sometime start late because there is a hearing or other official business running into their start time.

ORANGE County usually meets at 3:30 on first Thursdays in Goshen and it has designated its June 1st meeting as Senior Citizen Day. Its "annual meeting" happens in October (this year on Oct 5).

DUTCHESS County's legislature's meeting dates are the least predictable but through September they will be meeting on second Mondays in the early evening in Poughkeepsie. (In October they meet on a 2nd Tuesday and in November they meet on the Thursday following the November 9 election day.) We recommend checking date and time in advance so you don't waste a trip. Even already-scheduled meetings might change.

IF YOU ARE INTRIGUED BY YOUR VISIT, PLEASE CONSIDER BEING AN OFFICIAL LEAGUE OBSERVER. We are trying to develop a team of such observers and you will have opportunities to gather with other observers and share experiences. If you DO go as an observer (wearing a League button so people know), you will need to follow a few Do's and Don'ts that we'll be happy to share. We take care to maintain our nonpartisan image.

We really need these observers, so please consider it, and let me or any board member know.

Dare Thompson,

845-236-3074, darethompson@gmail.com

Regional Meetup Groups

A report on the
"Southern Tier
Group" by Cindy
Lanzetta

Our May meeting
in Newburgh
featured the 99th
Assembly District
Representative
Chris Eachus and
his wife, Kim.
Enjoying a lovely
lunch at the Silk
Factory Cafe,



League members

Minisink High School Voter Registration

learned about the

challenges facing the newly elected Assemblyman. We talked about some of the issues that the League is supporting in this legislative session. It was an interesting afternoon and we hope to next visit Kim Eachus's "[The Giving Tree Cafe](#)" in Newburgh.

We will not meet in June in order to see everyone at the Annual Meeting on June 15th at the [Starr Library](#) in Rhinebeck, 5-7pm!



LWVNYS Advocacy Day

by Cindy Lanzetta

On May 2nd, President Dare Thompson, Louise Reavis and I car-pooled and attended the State League Advocacy Day in Albany.

First we visited the State League's Office at a unique non-profit co-op building a

couple blocks from the Capitol. We learned about how to lobby and what issues the League was focusing on. Blair Horner, director of NYPIRG, came to speak to us about the plastics and other environmental bills being proposed.



After collecting League literature for our Voter Registration efforts, we marched up to the Capitol to lobby our State legislators and watch some of them in action on the legislative floor. (They later passed the budget that night!)

It was a great opportunity, we learned a lot, and I would recommend it to our members to join us next time!



NYPIRG Director Blair Horner

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Environmental Impact

Where Will Money Come From to Pay for Damages from Climate Change in New York

by Kathie
Beinkafner



On April 23, 2023, Blair Horner, Executive Director of the New York Public Interest Research Group, recorded an opinion piece on WAMC public radio from Albany (WAMK frequency 90.9 in the Hudson Valley). He reported that State Comptroller DiNapoli has issued a report of localities and New York City estimating current and future costs for infrastructure reconstruction as well as wastewater and drinking water facility cleanup and repair from flooding and stormwater damages, mostly in response to climate-related hazards.

Supporting Statistics

Localities: 25% responded for years 2012 to 2026, costs \$737 million, funding 50% local, 50% state and federal.

New York City: for 2023 year, \$829 million for full adaptation and resilience and \$1.3 billion for related projects.

Projecting 4 years into the future: Sewer Projects \$2.3 billion, Water Pollution Control \$1.8 billion, and related broad categories of resiliency, technology, and equipment \$1.6 billion.

The US Army Corps of Engineers estimated it would cost \$52 billion to protect the New York Harbor alone.

Bottom Line – New York taxpayers are, and will be, on the hook for significant infrastructure costs—as much of the spending is driven by climate change. While we may not know the ultimate climate costs, what we do know is that unless something changes, you and I will be paying those bills.

Blair Horner goes on to say.

“ Shouldn’t the biggest oil companies pick up the tab? After all it was the world’s largest oil companies that had conducted the cutting-edge research in the 1970s that concluded with precise accuracy what would happen if fossil fuels continued to be combusted. And wasn’t it the oil lobby that spent big bucks on public relations and lobbying campaigns to undermine independent science and block public health initiatives? Had those reforms been embraced years ago, the world would not be facing the climate crisis it is today.”

“Unlike most New Yorkers, the oil industry has the money. They’ve been raking in record-setting profits over the past few years.”

“Yet around the state Capitol, little has been said about these looming costs. It appears that Albany prefers to stick its head in the sand and hope that New Yorkers won’t notice the increasing costs – or worsening infrastructure – resulting from climate change. The state Senate did advance in its one-house budget a plan to make the largest oil companies pay \$3 billion annually to cover these costs. Unfortunately, the Assembly did nothing and the governor is reportedly resisting the Senate plan.”

Apparently, the State Budget, which was passed one month late,

did not address funding for these looming and escalating costs resulting from increasing impacts of climate change.

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News Items



More Thank You's Are In Order!

Cindy Bell holds a check from Gloria Waslyn, LWVMHR member and President of Ulster

County Women's Network. The UCWN hosted author Ellen Messer to talk about her book, *Back Rooms- Voices from the Illegal Abortion Era*. The program was presented after the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which overturned the *Roe v. Wade* ruling allowing for women's reproductive choice.

Several area independent bookstores have sold the book and donated the proceeds to UCWN, who in turn, donated the money to our League, as champions for reproductive rights.

The entire Board would like to thank Gloria for her generosity of heart, translated into action to further support League action on for the rights of women.

Gloria also heads Parrots for Peace and brings her amazing and beautiful parrots to events in the Hudson Valley and beyond.

"May there be peace between all People, Animals and Nature as we learn to live in Harmony and Balance with our one shared living Mother Earth."

For more information on the Ulster County Women's Network go to UCWN.org or parrotsforpeace.org.



The Ulster County Board of Elections 3rd Annual Ulster County Votes

"I Voted" Sticker Contest

WHO: Any young person, age 13-18 that is a resident of Ulster County can participate.

WHAT: Design a logo that we will use to create "I Voted" 2 inch stickers and digital

graphics that can be used for sharing for the November 7, 2023 General Election. I

Voted must appear somewhere in the design, but the rest is up to you.

WHEN: Artwork will be collected between the period of April 1, 2023- June 1, 2023.



Design by Hudson Rowan

The Ulster County Board of Elections Commissioners will select the top designs and then – of course – we open the contest up to voting on the top designs on our website.

During the month of July visit VoteUlster.com to cast your vote for your favorite design.

The winning artwork will be selected from the top vote getters and announced on

September 8, 2023. Stickers will be distributed during the November 7

th General

Election to all voters in Ulster County.

HOW: Send your artwork – Photo, PDF, JPEG to

Elections@co.ulster.ny.us

For more information please contact: Deputy Commissioners Jen Fuentes or Keri

Williams 845.334.5470

Voteulster.com

Voter Registration News

from Ann Toner

Anne Sandor, Pat Scully and I registered voters at the main campus of Newburgh Free Academy on Tuesday 5/9 and Thursday 5/11; and Leslie Simons, Mary Missere and I registered voters on 5/10 at NFA North campus. Ultimately, we registered 67 voters in the Newburgh District. Thanks to everyone who assisted.





New York's Economywide Cap-and-Invest Pre-Proposal Webinar Series

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Energy Research and Development

Authority (NYSERDA) are hosting a pre-proposal webinar series.

This is the first set in a series of webinars to inform the public and encourage written feedback during the initial phase of outreach. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available on the New York Cap-and-Invest website. If you wish to continue receiving updates on the development of the [Cap-and-Invest Program](#), please join the Climate Act mailing list.

Below is the full list of scheduled webinars for this first round. For more information on how to join the webinars, please visit the [New York Cap-and-Invest website](#).

June 1, 1 to 3 p.m. – Cap-and-Invest Overview

June 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Natural Gas-focused webinar

June 8, 1 to 3 p.m. – Liquid Fuels-focused webinar

June 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Energy Intensive and Trade Exposed Industries-focused webinar

June 15, 1 to 3 p.m. – Waste-focused webinar

June 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Cap-and-Invest Analysis Inputs and Methods

June 22, 1 to 3 p.m. – Electricity-focused webinar

As New York begins drafting regulations, we are considering California's existing economywide programs, as well as those operating in Quebec and Washington State. This webinar series will provide the public with a series of questions on topics that DEC and NYSERDA are seeking input. DEC and NYSERDA are

interested in hearing what elements of other jurisdictions' regulations would work well in New York, and what improvements or changes may best serve New York.

For more information, including instructions on how to provide comments, please visit the [New York Cap-and-Invest website](#).



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

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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 info@lwvmidhudson.org. Thanks.

Next Newsletter deadline is June 19th.

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

info@lwvmidhudson.org



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