



Newsletter September 2022

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Action Items

**Get the most out of
a Membership and
Be Involved with
Your Local League!**

MEETING DATES &
ZOOM LINKS-
August/September
2022- some events in
person!!



August 28th, 12pm-7pm, [2nd Annual Harambee African American](#)

[Festival](#), Kingston (Voter Service Opportunity)

September 10th, 11am-7pm, [Monroe Cheese Festival](#)
(Voter Service Opportunity)

September 12th, 1:45pm,
LWV-MHR Book Club [Enzo's](#), Kingston

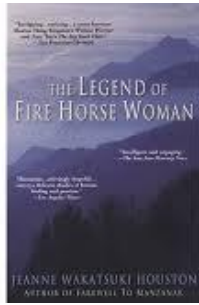
Sep 13th, 12:00 pm
Membership Committee Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87111212969?
pwd=aE9JaUZyZDIKV0V6L3ZEMVdBYkRyUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87111212969?pwd=aE9JaUZyZDIKV0V6L3ZEMVdBYkRyUT09)
Meeting ID: 871 1121 2969
Passcode: 130845

Sep 15th, 7:00pm
LWV-MHR Board Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86094613391?
pwd=MTc4UXBtOHFHL1ZXcnoxETR5N0J3QT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86094613391?pwd=MTc4UXBtOHFHL1ZXcnoxETR5N0J3QT09)
Meeting ID: 860 9461 3391
Passcode: 520616

Sept 20 -[National Voter Registration Day](#)(Voter Service
Opportunity)

September 23rd, 5pm
Sunset Membership Party, [Robert E. Post Park](#) in Kingston

September 24th, 11am-6pm,
Hispanic Heritage Festival at [Center 4 Creative Education](#),
Kingston (Voter Service Opportunity)



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

From Daisy Tyler:
Book Club will meet on
Monday, September 12th, at
1:45pm, at [Enzo's](#) in

Kingston.

All League members are welcome to come and participate. Guests are welcome. We promise that you don't have to take a test, and further, you don't have to finish all the book in order to participate in the discussions. We do promise that you'll have a great time and a savory lunch !

The book to read for the September session is : "THE LEGEND of FIRE HORSE WOMEN" by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston.

“ In Hiroshima, Japan, 1902, a woman born under the portentous Fire Horse Sign is married by proxy into the wealthy Matsubara family and sent to join her new husband in a new world... America.” This book is her story. I am sure you'll find it intriguing and a good summer read.

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

Voter Services

From Maura Omeara:
15 members have
reached out to help with
voter services. Thank you
for your willingness to



help in this essential endeavor. Our schedule continues to grow. Please see the dates below and let Maura know if you can volunteer for a 2-3 hour shift at one of these events. She can be reached at 845-705-

6076 (text or call) or omeara6076@gmail.com. We are still looking for people who are willing to go to the jails to provide voter registration and absentee ballot help. Also send ideas for large community events where we can park our tent- especially in historically underserved communities.

I am looking for a rep to reach out to colleges. Pat Lamanna reached out to Dutchess County Community College to set up a table on 9/20 and she said, "That was so easy!"

Sun Aug 28 - [2nd Annual Harambee African American Festival](#), Kingston 12:00-7:00pm

Sat Sept 10 - [Monroe Cheese Festival](#) 11am-7pm

Tues Sept 20 - [National Voter Registration Day](#) - where can you set up in your community?

Sat Sept 24 - [Hispanic Festival at the Center 4 Creative Education](#), Kingston 11:00-6:00PM



Regional Meetup Groups

There are so many opportunities to join in the work of Voter Services that we would encourage members to "meetup" and help with the important

work of educating voters.

Be sure to contact Maura Omeara at 845-705-6076 (text or call) or email omeara6076@gmail.com.

We hope members will put the Friday, September 23rd date on the calendar to join in the **Sunset Membership Party**,** to be held 5-7pm at the [Robert E. Post Park](#) Pavillion in Kingston. Invitations with more info will be forthcoming...

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The Prez says ...

by Dare Thompson:

As we gradually resume a more normal way of life, it is so energizing to be seeing one another in real-life again, not just Zoom boxes!



Accordingly we assure you that there will be many more ways to become active in the League than there have been since March 10, 2020, when I attended a big LWV-NYS party to celebrate long-time unpaid LWV lobbyist, Barb Bartoletti, at the state museum. Then there was a tasty and informative LWV-MHR gathering at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) on March 12th, where we learned about one of the CIA's kitchen that makes all its dishes out of leftover ingredients, from its other restaurants – what good stewardship! Then bang, life shut down. For a few months we waited for it all to be over but when it was clear that “over” was farther away than we even dared think about in March, we re-grouped and

learned to live on Zoom and other gifts from the tech world. We even learned to do candidate events on Zoom.

It wasn't the same, and thank goodness the lock-down is over, and while Zoom will still help us a lot, we can now provide many more ways to get involved:

Regional Meet-Ups. You may already have heard about a small gathering at a café or other site in your own area. We miss those days when Leagues were so local they could just meet for coffee or whatever! Some of the regions are northern Ulster (coordinated by Cindy Bell/Peg Nau), mid-Ulster (coordinated by Daisy Tyler and others), “southern tier” (coordinated by Cindy Lanzetta/Sheba Abraham and includes southern Ulster, Dutchess and Orange) and northern Dutchess (coordinated by Kathy OConnor). You'll continue to hear more about this effort to get to know each other better.

In person all-member meetings. Many of you came to Locust Grove for our annual meeting in June, and now on - September 23rd - we will have a Sunset Membership Party at the [Robert E. Post Park](#) in Kingston. Plans are afoot for a special winter event as well. Watch for more details soon but meanwhile MARK your CALENDAR for 9/23 at 5 pm!

Action-oriented meetings. Members have told us they want to work on Ranked Choice Voting, Electoral College reforms, and Medical Aid in Dying and a small action group is being formed for each. Let me know if you want to be part of any or all of these.

Observer Corps refers to those people who attend government meetings. This is a great way to get to know your county and town boards better and reinforce League work. You need not know anything special to get started – just bring some healthy curiosity. And watch out - this can be oddly addictive.

Voter Education and Service activities: We're famous for these, of course, and you too can register voters, distribute voting info, help at candidate events, report election results for the

Associated Press (AP) and so much more. Let ANY of us know you're interested. We are especially eager to have a large team involved for National Voter Registration Day on September 20th, so MARK your CALENDAR!

And finally (for now), we can really use help with **COMMUNICATIONS!** Whether you enjoy social media, have some savvy about website development, can develop print documents or, otherwise, know how to grab attention from web surfers and readers, let us know. You can really help us serve and grow!

Dare Thompson, President

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News Items

Wow! Watch Us Grow!

We have been glad to see many individuals and households join our League since early 2021, and we share their names here. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the full list. They're from all corners of our three-county service area - even a bit beyond. As life is opening up more, let's get to know each other better. Watch for informal gatherings near you.



A special welcome to our Orange County members!
Orange officially became part of our MidHudson League service

area at the 2021 Annual Meeting and we are enjoying getting to know these members and the new opportunities their involvement presents.

Diana Gross, Washingtonville

Lynn Peebles, Cornwall

Louise Reavis, Monroe

Anne Sandor, Monroe

Leslie Simons, Cornwall

Roz Smith, Middletown

Ann Toner, Middletown

Alicia Weissman, Goshen



New LWV-MHR Member, Emma DiValentino had been a New Paltz High School volunteer and is now at American University in Washington, DC. Before leaving, she was involved with the "For The Many" New Paltz rally for fair housing rights. Emma joined our League this summer. She worked at Mohonk for the summer but she also was an ACLU intern this summer for the 2nd year in a row!! Go Emma!



"The League of Women Voters of the United States is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing

candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public."

Take the time to read this important blog on how we walk this tightrope:

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/remaining-nonpartisan-hyper-partisan-times>

Check out this amazing site that was brought to our attention by Louise Reavis:

<https://thecivicscenter.org/>

Great ideas to involve students in voting!



With the help of this QR code you can direct anyone to the New York State Voter Look Up [Website](#)

Just direct your cellphone camera on the code and a website prompt will come up and you can go to that and see info on your registration status and polling places. Saves paper!



You can also go to VoterLookUp.elections.ny.gov, which will take you to that same page where you will find your polling place and your new election districts.

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Seems like it might be a good



time to review one of the video presentations we have available at our YouTube page: [Election Security](#) with Mark Lindeman of Verified Voting

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 2022 Redistricting Maps [HERE](#).

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Environmental Impact

by Cynthia Bell:

What's happening at the former IBM Kingston site?

IBM Kingston began operations in 1955,

employing 5,000 and bringing an economic and social boon to Ulster County and beyond. They manufactured everything from typewriters to airline and space program support, as well as



engineering processes, to advanced communication systems for finance, banking and retail stores. The gas panels created there paved the way for large screen HD televisions that was sold to Panasonic in 1997.

When they left in 1995, the community suffered great losses to business, employment and left a large and empty 28 building, 80-acre property. The developer who took over failed to attract significant tenants and, in the process of cleaning out buildings, left huge piles of asbestos-laden waste on the site. Since this hazardous waste could not be disposed of easily or cheaply, the owner left the piles for years, further deteriorating the property and its value to others. The IBM corporation continues work to clean up the brownfield that exists under much of the property which left by disposal of chemical waste during manufacturing in the early years.

Finally, in 2019, Ulster County foreclosed on 18 parcels of the property for non-payment of taxes. In came National Resources, a company that had successfully taken over an IBM facility in Dutchess County, creating a thriving business park. The Kingston project is called iPark 87 and will fill the spaces with targeted industries in logistics and manufacturing; film and media; food and beverage; health and wellness as well as education.

Here's where my story really begins. On August 12th, I attended an event at iPark 87 where Senator Schumer introduced the newest tenant- Zinc8- a leader in Zinc Air Battery Technology. According to their [website](#) this is “an innovative battery technology that uses Zinc and air as fuel. The technology resolves the intermittent and unpredictable nature of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar” and is a cost-effective solution to effective energy storage. The company will create up to 500 well-paying manufacturing jobs and start the former IBM

site on the way toward a better future for the community and a sustainable future for all. There are already contracts for renewable energy projects in New York State, with a great deal of interest expressed by others.

Senator Schumer and Zinc8 CEO Ron MacDonald spoke at length about plans for the site, joined by County Executive Pat Ryan, as well as a number of other excellent speakers. Ashley Dittus, representing the UC Board of Elections, presented Senator Schumer with swag created by a youth voting sticker design contest winner - Hudson Rowan of Stone Ridge. His design went viral online and garnered more than 200,000 votes! This "I Voted" Sticker Has 6 Legs, 2 Eyes and was even noted in [the New York Times](#).

I was fortunate to have been invited to the event as a member of Town of Ulster Citizens, headed by Laura Hartmann, a community mover and shaker with her own plans for arts and music at the site.

Lisa Garcia, EPA regional administrator, also spoke and pointed out that this project finally has the resources to complete the cleanup, thanks to Senator Schumer's support for New York on a federal level. She stated that cleanup would begin on Monday August 15th (the event was Friday).

iPark owner National Resources CEO Joe Cotter has promised to invest \$200m over ten years in what he described as the "ugliest challenge my company had ever taken on." [Future power - Hudson Valley One](#)

This is truly a collaborative effort among leadership at all levels and support of citizens. I am excited to see what's next!

See also Zinc8's [press release](#) dated August 17.

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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 September 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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