



Newsletter October 2022

## Table of Contents (When viewing the entire newsletter you can click on the title to go directly to that item)

- Action Items
- The Prez says...
- News Items
- Environmental Impact - a series by Cindy Bell
- Editor's Note

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### Action Items

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

MEETING DATES &  
ZOOM LINKS-

September/October  
2022- some events in person!!



**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)

**September 24th,**

10-3pm,

[Climate Solutions Week Event, Mohonk Preserve](#)(Voter Service  
Opportunity)

**September 27th,**

Ulster County Board of Elections Open House / Mock Election,  
Kingston

The demonstration, which is open to the public, will take place at  
Board of Elections headquarters, 79 Hurley Ave., Kingston, on  
Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m.

**October 1st,**

9-3pm, New Paltz Library Fair (Voter Service Opportunity)

**October 3rd,**

10-2pm,

SUNY Orange (OCCC), Middletown (Voter Service Opportunity -  
contact Leslie Simmons 845-721-8260)

**October 6th,**

5pm,

Ulster County Charter Revision Commission

**October 9th,**

3-5pm, "We Hold These Truths" Screening at [Rosendale Theater](#),  
(Voter Service Opportunity with film showing at 5pm)

**October 10th,**

1:45pm, LWVMHR Book Club, [Enzo's](#) in Kingston

**October 13th,**

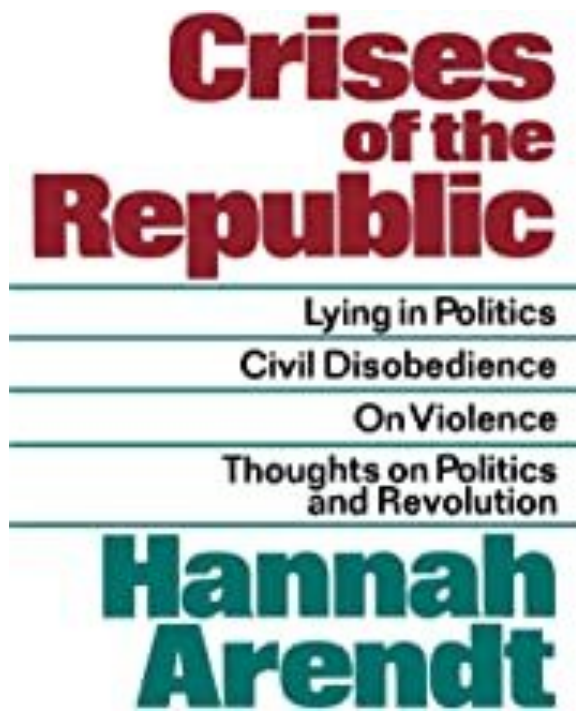
5pm,

Ulster County Charter Revision Commission

**October 22nd,**

9:30-12:30pm,

Thriving in Rhinebeck, [Rhinebeck High School](#), (Voter Service Opportunity)



## **LWVMHR Book Club Meeting**

From Daisy Tyler

We discussed the book "The Legend of Fire Horse Woman" by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. It is a novel set against the background of Manzanar, one of the Japanese interment camp in California, during Second World War. It is the story of

Sayo (a letter bride) who comes from Hiroshima to America to wed Hiroshi - the second son of a wealthy Japanese's family. It is an epic novel of courage, war, family, prejudice and love. Sayo was born under the disastrous sign of the Fire Horse. According to Chinese and Japanese mythology, any women born under this sign was destined to have bad luck in life. In order to survive the stigma, they become resilient. They are mostly intelligent, active

and outgoing and persistent in life. Not a bad thing to be. The book is written in simple readable prose but has the characteristic of a Japanese painting - subtle colors in imageries that are barely allusions of descriptions. At times it reads as the author implies - like characters in a Hokusai canvas.

The next book is "Crises of the Republic" by Hannah Arendt. What are the consequences of lying in politics, the reasons for civil disobedience, causes of violence? Do this topic sounds familiar? Join us on **Monday, October 10th, at 1:45pm**, at [Enzo's](#), in Kingston for the discussion.

You don't have to be a member of the League in order to participate, any member can bring a guest or two.

Come and have a good lunch and spend a pleasant time with us, you won't regret it.

For November 14th , we have: " Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World" by the Correspondent/ Neurosurgeon, Fareed Zacaria. Learn how COVID affected the entire world.

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



## Voter Services

From Maura Omeara

Sept 20th is National  
Voter Registration Day!

LWV has volunteers at Dutchess Community College (Pat Lamanna and Richard) and SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge (Deborah Marr). Orange Community College has opted for Oct 3rd instead

and we have a team of volunteers to cover (Leslie Simmons, Cindy Lanzetta, Louise Reaves, Anne Sandor, Faye, Leanna Ziles?, Alicia Weissman)

Sept 24th LWW has two events: Mohonk Preserve for New Paltz Climate Smart event 10-3 (Maura & Cindy B) and Kingston Hispanic Heritage Festival at Creative Art Center 11-6 (Daisy, Louise and NEEDS ONE MORE!)

Sept 27th Open House at Ulster County Board of Elections: new space, demo of new voting system technology (Clear Ballot) and a mock election

October 1st New Paltz Library Fair 9a-3p. If you can join Maura, please be in touch 845-705-6076.

October 3rd SUNY Orange (OCCC) Middletown 10am-2pm Voter Services - contact Leslie Simmons 845-721-8260 to help

October 9th Rosendale Theater play "We Hold These Truths" at 5pm. Voter Service table in the parking lot 3p-5pm. (Dare, Daisy & Maura)

October 22nd "Thriving in Rhinebeck" 9:30a - 12:30p [resources for older adults] at Rhinebeck High School. (this event NEEDS VOLUNTEERS)

Stay tuned!

SOON Ulster County Sheriff will allow Voter Service volunteers into the jail for educational session. Daisy, Cindy B, Kathy O, Louise and Christine Hunter have signed up to volunteer.

High Falls Farm Co-Op identified a member who will do Voter Education each week at pick up as her service work. Her name is Indira and Maura will train her and offer supplies.

Planned Parenthood volunteers would like to support our Voter Service with volunteers. Maura has offered to train them.

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Dear Members,

We are looking for volunteers for our **Programing Committee**. This committee will be tasked with arranging this year's events. We are looking for committee members interested in helping with finding speakers, creating event fliers, location scouting, as well as the other event logistics. Currently, we are hoping to plan events on How to Run For Office; Healthcare; Election Security; and trainings for the observer core. Members of the programming committee will also provide input into what other programs to hold. We welcome both event specific and year-round volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jennifer Clark at [jenclark3@gmail.com](mailto:jenclark3@gmail.com) by Wednesday September 28.

Take  
ACTION



Are you interested in learning more about **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)** and helping us consider concurring with other NY chapters? Join our Rank Choice Voting Committee. All

meetings will be on Zoom. No previous knowledge of RCV is required. We anticipate holding approximately 4 one hour meetings. The kick off meeting is Sunday, October 9 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. If you are interested, please email co-chairs Gerda

Maissel at [grdmaissel@gmail.com](mailto:grdmaissel@gmail.com) or Dave Heller at [mrplurocrat@aol.com](mailto:mrplurocrat@aol.com).

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## 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](mailto:omeara6076@gmail.com).

We hope members have 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. Hope to see you there!

The Southern Tier Group will be meeting on Friday, October 21st, at noon at the [Silk Factory Cafe](#). All members are welcome to attend - it's to build fellowship and share each other's ideas and concerns...

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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## The Prez says ...

by Dare Thompson

It is National Voter Registration Day as I



write this and the League will be busy today - and right up until the October 14 postmark deadline - staffing voter education and registration tables all over our three-county area. Requests come in all the time and if you'd like to help, please let me or Maura O'Meara know.



Other election related work continues as well. Notice elsewhere here that we are joining the voices of protest concerning the lack of a polling place at Vassar College. We are also learning more about Ranked Choice Voting in an effort to get it to be considered by more localities in our area. Watching it play out in NYC, Alaska, and elsewhere has been inspiring – with more candidates running and less mud being flung! (Join our study committee and find out why.)

Since our League was instrumental in establishing a charter in Ulster County in 2006, we are watching carefully as the eleven members of a Charter Revision Commission begin work this month. Our long-time watcher of Ulster government, Tom Kadgen, was appointed to the commission and he urges others to watch in person (or, we hope, on Zoom).

While we mostly watch to make sure no unfortunate changes get made, we recognize that there are a few that might be good. The commission must finish up by July if it hopes to put any changes before the voters in November 2023. The next meetings are Oct 6 and 13 at 5 pm. More info is available at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/charter-revision-commission>

League members do serious, important work, but we also really enjoy one another's company, and we all hope to enjoy YOURS this Friday at the Robert E. Post Park in Kingston. I am especially



eager to see those of you who've joined during the pandemic and are just names, not faces. Please join us!

Dare Thompson, President

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[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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## News Items

### **League of Women Voters Mid-Hudson Region Supports Student Voting Accessibility**



In New York, it has traditionally been hard for college students to vote. Campuses are spilt up into several districts, with polling sites inaccessible to the typical college student who does not own a vehicle. For example, Vassar College has historically been divided into three districts, causing students to have to re-register whenever they switch dorms. At Bard college, the problems were so bad that the school initiated multiple lawsuits against the Dutchess County Board of Elections to make voting more accessible to its students.

Recognizing the difficulties faced by students trying to fulfill their civic responsibilities, New York recently changed its laws regarding polling sites, amending section 4-104 of New York Election Law to require polling sites on many college campuses. It now provides:

Whenever a contiguous property of a college or university

contains three hundred or more registrants who are registered to vote at any address on such contiguous property, the polling place designated for such registrants shall be on such contiguous property or at a nearby location recommended by the college or university and agreed to by the board of elections.

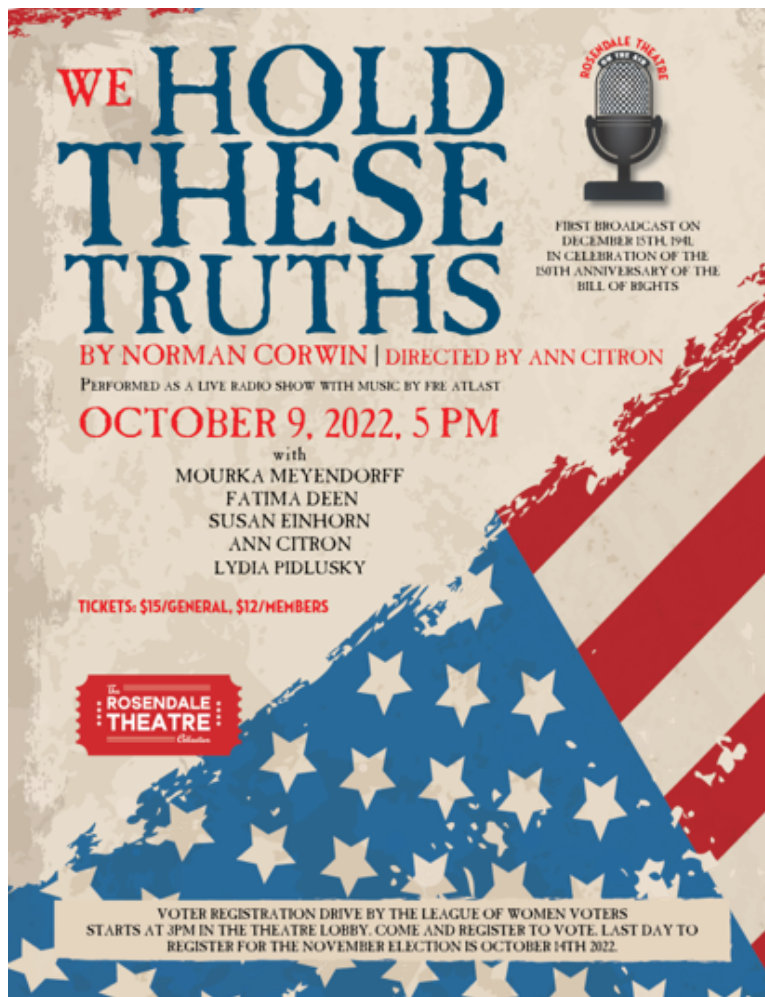
This amendment was made as part of the 2022 budget and, by its terms, requires “the boards of elections to designate polling places pursuant to this act ...[by] August 1, 2022.”

Despite the clear language of the law, the League has been informed that the Dutchess County Board of Elections declined to act on Vassar’s requests to set up a polling site on campus. Although Vassar has over 1,000 registered voters, clearly meeting the requirements for its own site, no site was in place for the August 23 primaries and special election, and no sites are slated to be there for the General Election in November.

The LWV-MHR will be reaching out to the Dutchess County Board of Elections for an explanation of what seems to be its blatant disregard for the law. Depending on its response, the LWV-MHR may consider taking legal action and will consider joining any action filing by or on behalf of Vassar students to enforce their right to an accessible polling site. Whereas our core mission is to help people vote, we cannot sit idly by when voting rights legislation is ignored. More to follow.

-Jennifer J. Cark, VP (Issues/Advocacy)

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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](https://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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CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We have an excellent video that simplifies the idea of **Ranked Choice Voting**. Check it out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHRPMJmzBBw>

We also 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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[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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## Environmental Impact

by Cynthia Bell:

**Climate  
Solutions Week –  
Hudson Valley**

**September 17-  
25, 2022**



This week

(September 17-25) marks Hudson Valley Climate Solutions week.

It is sponsored by Sustainable Hudson Valley and is supported by Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley and Chronogram Media. The aim is to promote events and activities by many types of organizations throughout the Hudson Valley in order to address issues around the changing climate and what each of us as residents and organizations can do to make a difference. It is also an opportunity for groups to learn about each other so they can partner to increase their impact on our communities.

We each have an important part to play in creating positive change and one of the event messages clearly states that whatever you do, know that every action matters. As they say in the League, “If we each do a little, together we can accomplish a lot.”

Some of the events being held virtually this week range from science and art projects for children to invasive plants and community resilience to one of my favorites- the importance of concrete. You can find links and more information [here Event Schedule](#)— HV Climate Solutions Week.

Mohonk Preserve is hosting a Climate Action: Local Solutions in-person event on Saturday 9/24 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Stop by our table on your way to see the many local organizations with personal and local climate solutions. There are a number of excellent activities planned as well. It’s a wonderful event to share with family, friends and children of all ages. To find out more, go to [Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week - Mohonk Preserve](#)  
Hope to see you there!

To learn more about what is happening across our country, visit [Home | Climate Solutions](#)

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[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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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](mailto:info@lwvmidhudson.org). Thanks.

Next Newsletter deadline is October 24th.

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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