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Action Items



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

Meet other League members and share your thoughts on important subjects. We have a luncheon meeting in Kingston, Wednesday, November 10th, 1:45pm, at Enzo's Restaurant, 207 Boices Lane, Kingston.

We will continue the discussion on the book "Guns, Germs and Steel" by Jared Diamond.

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

Do you have a website skill to share? We are looking for a member who can post items to our website once a month. Meeting minutes, calendar, news and event items and photos. If you can download ready-made information once a month, we're looking for you! We will pick up the cost of your LWV membership and be really and truly grateful. Simple training will be provided if necessary. Another member who can help create and post content to Instagram with state, national and local information (provided to you) is also needed. Not sure how to do it, but have the time and are comfortable with your friend the computer? No problem, we'll teach you. This is a great way to make a huge difference without even leaving your easy chair. Be the first to know what's happening. For more information, contact the [League email](#) and we'll talk.



Get involved - **Membership Committee** is looking for ideas. The next meeting will be on November 3d, 1pm, at the [Gateway Diner](#), 3579 Rt. 9W, in Highland.

County Legislature Observers/League Liaison - Members, like Karen Holloway in Dutchess County, attend Legislative meetings and report back to the Board to keep us updated on the latest. Let us know if you are interested and we'll walk you through lwvmidhudson@gmail.com



LWVMHR programs

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:

October was a busy month with moderating candidate forums, hosting online informational programs and doing a spot on Radio Kingston to discuss the ballot propositions and to address matters of election security with Mark Lindeman of Verified Voting.

Upcoming: On the week of November 18th Cindy Bell will share (via Zoom) her experience from Glasgow, where she was invited to observe the United Nations Climate Change Conference. We will send out the link when she returns from this amazing opportunity!

Please send program ideas to Maura at omeara6076@gmail.com



UN Update

Women's Rights is one of the League's most important platforms and remains at the forefront today. It's a recurring problem in that many innocent lives struggle today, for an exit from Child Sex Trafficking.

On September 23, 2021, ECPAT USA gave a webinar on: "Protecting Children and Fostering Inclusive Growth in Tourism: New Opportunities as We Mark UN World Tourism Day."

Tourism is an enjoyable event for travelers everywhere; however, one concern with tourism is Child Sex Trafficking. Since hotels are the first place the child is taken to, It's not easy to

spot a child who is in the sex ring, because a person may not know if the child is with a parent or family member and therefore, not easily recognized. These children are taken as young as 12 years old for sex tourism, if the child is under 18 and is coerced to consent, this is considered a crime by International Law. What is even sadder is the young child thinks this may be normal, due to the money they make for the transaction and the false love portrayed.

Child Sex Trafficking slowed during the COVID-19 Pandemic, but with travel starting up again, this will remain an ongoing problem with tourism unless greater action is taken.

Should you become suspicious do not hesitate to get involved:

<https://www.ecpatusa.org/mission>

ICE Tip Line: 1-866-347-2423

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: 1-800-843-5678

National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

Additional Information:

Edward V. Owens, Deputy Special Agent Email:

EdwardVictor.Owens@ice.dhs.gov

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The Prez says...

Prez Says

November, 2021

Ballot proposals are the news of the day

in New York State and there are many. Before you vote, learn about them through our virtual events presented this month. A video of the [“What’s on Your Ballot”](#) is available on YouTube.

This presentation includes local information and was well-organized and hosted by Jen Clark and Karen Holloway.

Dr. Gerald Benjamin and Jennifer Wilson from LWVNY were present to share their knowledge of the issues as well the League’s position on several proposals. Karen Holloway did great work creating the Dutchess County Proposal PowerPoint as well.



You can also check out the video recording for our other recent event “Voting 2021 What You Need to Know” is [here](#). I thank Maura O’Meara for her excellent program organization and the Ulster County BOE Commissioners for sharing their time and knowledge for this professional presentation. There have been so many changes over the last two years that I think even the most knowledgeable of the audience learned something new. This presentation included BOE processes and changes for this year following expiration of last year’s emergency executive orders. Some passed into law while others were eliminated. Most information in the video is pertinent for any NYS resident.

All of this year’s 2,500 Voter Guides have now found a home and I would like to acknowledge Dare Thompson, Pat Lamanna and Karen Holloway for an exceptional job well done in getting many of the brochures distributed and in front of citizens. Many others contributed their time and efforts toward this end as well. We brought them to all events that we moderated and I sent numerous guides, via post office, to those who asked for them in all three counties. There is a great interest in this year’s ballot

proposals and we have done everything we can to let people know about them- from Voter Guides to virtual events, Facebook posts and emailed requests for information.

We are still in need of a webmaster for our online presence. This is where I say thank you, once again, to Kathy OConnor, for her continuing support as we find our way. I have reached out to other League leaders to see how they've worked with the new, and now critical, importance of internet connections of all kinds. COVID considerations continue to plague our in-person plans and has made our organization's grassroots nature truly challenging.

I'm excited to report to you that I have been chosen to be one of the LWV delegates to the COP26 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland. It's a far more complex process this year with COVID and worldwide issues of critical importance to everyone--- clean air, fresh water and protection from dangerous weather patterns, while remembering the vulnerable among us who pay the highest price for changes in climate. I hope to bring back practical information and workable solutions to share with our membership and local governments to work the problems in a manner that leaves no one behind. Climate justice, with fiscal responsibility in business and government, is possible if the way is clear and if citizens insist on action.

Stay tuned..

In League,

Cindy Bell

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News Items

The Fair Representation Act

Californians for
Electoral Reform and
the Advocacy Director
of the Sacramento
County Chapter of LWV



California, Paula Lee, hosted a presentation by a member of Represent Women. Local member, Gai Galitzine, called this video to our attention because "I really see the Fair Representation Act as the most important reform we could make. It will dial down the hyper-partisan political divide we are seeing, and it will make other important and necessary reforms much easier to implement."

[Watch the video here](#)



DID YOU KNOW...

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

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Environmental Impact - a series by Cindy Bell

In the 1940s, at President Roosevelt's request, the League of Women Voters carried out a nationwide public support campaign to establish the United Nations.



President Harry Truman then invited the League to serve as a consultant to the US delegation, and this was the first organization officially recognized by the UN as a non-governmental organization, or NGO, and retains its observer status to this day.

As a result of the status, the LWVUS will be participating in this year's COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. Eleven delegates (observers) will be attending along with Robin Tomakian, the League's Chief UN Observer for Climate Change. I am honored and excited to be among the eleven local League representatives invited, from across the US, and will be attending the second week of the conference from November 7th through the end on November 12th!

So what is COP26? It is the 26th UN Climate Change Conference- COP stands for Conference of the Parties and refers to the signatories of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It is a meeting of world leaders to discuss their countries' climate policies and this year they are expected to submit enhance pledges to they national determined contributions agreed upon at the first signing of the Paris Climate Agreement. It was originally planned to take place in Glasgow last November, but the coronavirus pandemic forced a delay until this year.

It begins on October 31st and while there are numerous

delegates and dignitaries attending events inside, there will be more many more holding rallies, marches and other events outside the venue, hoping to influence the delegates for more substantive action. Corporations and advocacy groups will set up shop in a large pavilion to host panels and press conferences. More to come next month!

Cindy 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. Thanks.

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

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