



Newsletter December 2022

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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-
December

December 6th

12:30 PM

LWVMHR Membership Committee Meeting (All are welcome!)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86309152442?pwd=eGlxQU1WRG53NE9SWUNZS1I1eWExZz09>

December 12th

11:15 AM- 1 PM

Legalizing Medical Aid in Dying in New York

[Performing Arts Center, Woodland Pond, New Paltz](#)

December 15th

7pm

LWVMHR

Board Meeting

(Members are welcome to join)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82555616265?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82555616265?pwd=M0w4bFJCL0U1cTY4Q3l6RUtIY1F1dz09)

[pwd=M0w4bFJCL0U1cTY4Q3l6RUtIY1F1dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82555616265?pwd=M0w4bFJCL0U1cTY4Q3l6RUtIY1F1dz09)

December 16th

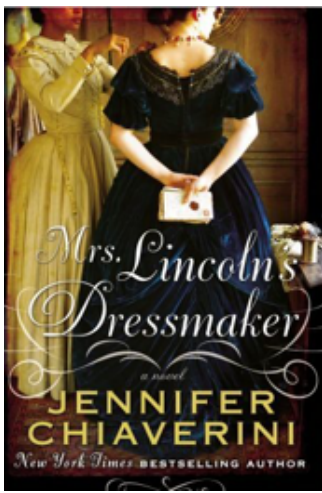
Noon

League Southern Tier Meetup

[Silk Factory, Newburgh](#)

HOT OFF THE PRESS !!!

LWV Mid-Hudson Region joined a Vassar College professor and student in suing the Dutchess County Board of Elections to provide a polling site on campus. Mission accomplished. See more in the NEWS section of our Newsletter!



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

From Daisy Tyler

Book Club members gathered at Enzo's restaurant on November 12th to discuss Fareed Zacarias' book, "Ten Lessons For a Post Pandemic World". Three years before the pandemic, Fareed made the prediction, on CNN, that the world was going to experience a catastrophic health crisis and the United States wasn't prepared for it. In this book Zakaria discusses what the world will look like, post pandemic. Find this book intriguing? Then you must purchase it or borrow it from any of the book club members. If you aren't familiar with the author, you must know that Zakaria is a brilliant journalist who works for CNN with his program GPS. He probably has more intellectual reign and insights than any other public thinker in the West.

The Book Club won't meet in December. The next meeting will be on January 9th, 2023, at [Enzo's Restaurant](#) in Kingston. Meeting will be at 1:45 PM, as usual.

We will start the new year with the book, "[Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker](#)," by [Jennifer Chiaverini](#).

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

**Legalizing
Medical Aid in
Dying in New**

York:

**A Community
Conversation**

Monday,
December 12th
11:15 AM - 1 PM

[Performing Arts Center, Woodland Pond, New Paltz](#)



from Cindy Bell:

On February 3, 2018, the LWV-MHR held a Death with Dignity Concurrence Meeting at the Everett Hodge Center in Kingston. Studies by LWVNYS, California and Oregon were presented and discussed with the standing-room-only crowd of League members and the interested public. At the end of the presentation and after some lively conversation, a vote was taken among League members, overwhelmingly supporting the bill (Assembly #A02383, State Senate #S03151). It was passed by the Assembly and remains stagnant in the State Senate. Each year, it is passed anew, only to sit in committee with the other legislative branch.

This year, there is a concerted effort to push the bill through and a campaign by Compassion and Choices has been mounted to make that happen. Our members and friends are invited to join in the conversation and to make their voices heard.

**Voter Registration for Ulster
County Jail Incarcerated
Individuals Training**

by Cindy Bell



LWVMHR member Christine Hunter and I attended the training on November 2nd, after filling out the Volunteer Application and after having been approved by the Sheriff's staff. It was hoped that we would register voters before the registration deadline in October, but the process took longer than anticipated. We will be able to provide voter assistance going forward (unless, of course, we commit a crime, as was explained to us).

Incarcerated individuals are now eligible to vote by absentee ballot, as well as those awaiting trial or on parole for a misdemeanor. In some cases, those convicted of felony offenses and currently on parole are also eligible if they have voting restoration through a conditional voting restoration pardon or have been issued a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or Certificate of Good Conduct. Proof of the voting restoration issues do not have to be presented in order to register. Anyone who has completed their sentence, including parole, may vote. A criminal history is no longer a reason to deny citizens the right to vote.

We arrived at the facility and were promptly shown to a conference room along with an addiction counselor, a newly hired guard and a priest. The training was conducted by an officer who first off, explained that what we have to know is that inmates have 24/7 to think about ways to get around the rules and manipulate staff. He went through a number of situations they've seen that serve as good examples of that manipulation. Safety and security are major concerns for inmates and visitors. We were told that no printed materials should contain staples, and writing implements can easily be made into weapons among numerous other articles that can be fashioned into dangerous tools. For instance, a tightly rolled newspaper in a sock could easily be made to inflict serious injury. We were told to keep jewelry to a minimum and wear conservative clothing as well. Candy and other treats are not allowed, as they are considered contraband.

The training as presented was dynamic and story-filled, while being full of practical information. I felt that our time was well respected, and that the material was practical for our use. The plan is to create a procedure that any of us can use in the future or in other facilities. If anyone is interested in joining us, helping to set a plan or working to create a simple program for their own local jail, please contact me at cindylwv@gmail.com and I will include you in our January planning Zoom. We are looking to put together our game plan so we can be ready for the primary in June.

We will be taking along brochures, voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications for our April visit in 2023.



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



GETTING TO KNOW RANKED CHOICE VOTING – It's easier than you think!

Many people believe that the only solution to our nearly broken democracy is to allow people to vote for the

candidates they really want, not

just the lesser of two evils. Ranked choice voting lets you do that! And our League is going to decide in early 2023 whether we want to join an effort to make RCV a viable option in New York's elections.

The biggest barrier to getting RCV accepted is that while most people who try it find RCV really easy to do, most also find it really hard to understand. "It's just too confusing," is the usual response. And apparently people have to try it and talk about it three times before the light bulb goes off. So for 15 minutes, for three weeks in a row, we are going to try to light your bulb! Each week you will vote on something you know something about and each week you will have three choices of when to join us, so your busy schedule is no reason not to participate.

"Favorite Ice Cream" TAKE THIS POLL before noon DEC 4 and join us on the 4th or 6th

<http://app.rankedvote.co/elections/25525/Favorite-Ice-Cream/26453/vote>

"Favorite Hudson Valley Location " TAKE THIS POLL before noon DEC 11 and join us on the 11th or 13th

<http://app.rankedvote.co/elections/25526/Favorite-Hudson-Valley-Location/26454/vote>

"Great Women of History" TAKE THIS POLL before noon DEC 18

and join us on the 18th or 20th

<http://app.rankedvote.co/elections/25524/Great-Women-of-History/26452/vote>

Zoom link for those who prefer **Sundays at noon**

Topic: Ranked Choice Results

Every week on **Sunday**, until Dec 18, 2022, 3 occurrence(s)

Dec 4, 2022 12:00 PM

Dec 11, 2022 12:00 PM

Dec 18, 2022 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84605642449?
pwd=azM1cVlWbWVlbnZyNUI6S09VNm9Td309](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84605642449?pwd=azM1cVlWbWVlbnZyNUI6S09VNm9Td309)

Zoom link for those who prefer **Tuesday at noon**

Topic: Ranked Choice Results

Dec 6, 2022 12:00 PM

Dec 13, 2022 12:00 PM

Dec 20, 2022 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83096866052?
pwd=OUl1QlVHUTY2UmRkZVJ5eVYwYUhlLz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83096866052?pwd=OUl1QlVHUTY2UmRkZVJ5eVYwYUhlLz09)

Zoom link for those who prefer **Tuesdays at 7 PM**

Topic: Ranked Choice Results

Dec 6, 2022 07:00 PM

Dec 13, 2022 07:00 PM

Dec 20, 2022 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89538114118?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89538114118?pwd=bysxRmxDWjIOczk5eTF4djNtWE5VUT09)

[pwd=bysxRmxDWjIOczk5eTF4djNtWE5VUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89538114118?pwd=bysxRmxDWjIOczk5eTF4djNtWE5VUT09)

Regional Meetup Groups

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

We had a special
guest at our last
meeting, on
November 18th, at
the Silk Factory in
Newburgh! Judie
Gorenstein,
President of the
[New York State
League of Women
Voters](#), stopped
by to introduce
herself and hear a



New York State League President Judie Gorenstein

bit about what our members have been up to. We also had a visit from Isis Benitez, who is looking to expand on the good work of the YWCA in empowering women and addressing racial inequities

by partnering with organizations like the League, which has similar aims. As always, we enjoyed animated conversation and talked about ideas to further explore in the Southern Ulster/Dutchess and Orange County area. We will have our next get together on December 16th, at noon, at the [Silk Factory](#). Looking forward to enjoying holiday cheer with League members!

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The Prez says ...

by Dare Thompson

I don't think I've ever had a busier two months of League activity.

Our Voter Service/Education activities, coordinated by VP Maura O'Meara and involving so many of us, are either summarized in this newsletter or will come next month.

I will just say that all three counties were involved, we served a lot of people, and we all got to know one another better - a special joy after the curse of COVID.

Informal membership meet-ups have also helped us connect again. Each meet-up is different depending on who comes and what's happening around us. Our VP for Issues, Jen Clark, was at one in Poughkeepsie just as we were about to sue the Dutchess Co Board of Elections for not following the law and putting a poll



Highland meetup with New York State League President Judie Gorenstein (lower center)

site on the Vassar campus. As a key player in the suit, she was able to fill us all in. We sued only days later and in about 24 hours won our case! You go, Jen!

A meet-up in Highland featuring a lot of our recycling/composting enthusiasts and another in Newburgh this last Friday featured our state president, Judie Gorenstein, who had just come back with me from a celebration of the Albany LWV's 100th (!) year. She was delighted to talk with many of our members before catching the train back to Hastings. The Newburgh meet-up also attracted Isis Benitez, from the Kingston YWCA, who wanted to let us know that they would love to collaborate with us as they do more outreach in Dutchess. We'll definitely be following up so stay tuned on that.

There is a lot of nitty-gritty government work that we are following too. Our Ulster County charter is undergoing a scheduled revision process and one of our faithful members, Tom Kadgen, is serving on the revision commission. Our League was instrumental in getting a charter form of government established here, so we watch any revisions carefully. We are also following the de-railed redistricting process in Ulster. It turns out that the map the redistricting commission submitted last summer is illegal - it was drawn with the wrong understanding about how much variation there could be in the size of the population from district to district. A lawsuit will probably force the commission back to the drawing board and we'll watch that too.

And don't be confused. The state Assembly lines are ALSO being redrawn right now. The Congressional and state Senate lines were redrawn in time for this month's elections, but not the Assembly lines. So the state commission is also back at the drawing board and we (and Leagues across NY) have our eyes on that. We know how much power is taken from voters when it's

done unfairly.

Of course, legislation is also on our minds as the new session begins again soon at the state capital. Medical aid in dying legislation is a top priority for us and other Leagues and we are also encouraging our fellow local Leagues to look hard at ranked choice voting (RCV). Look for information about both of these elsewhere in this newsletter.

If any of the above interests you, we'd love to get you involved - just let us know.

Dare Thompson, President

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News Items



LWVMHR Gets Polling Site at Vassar Campus

by Jenfer Clark

After our letter to the Dutchess County Board of Elections resulted in no response, the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region joined in a letter with the Andrew Goodman

Foundation and Democracy Matters (a Vassar student interest group) to the Dutchess County Executive and the head of the County Legislature demanding a poll site on campus for the upcoming elections, as is required by law. Again, the letter resulted in crickets.

Given the lack of response, we sued. The matter was heard by the Dutchess County Supreme Court on November 3, 2022, the Thursday before the general election. The Court granted our petition in its entirety, holding "The plain language of Election Law 4-104(5-a) which includes the word 'shall' (as opposed to 'may' or 'should') specifically mandates the designation of a voting polling place on a college or university campus where, as here, the petitioner demonstrated that the college or university campus contains three hundred or more registrants to vote at an address on such college or university campus."

Unfortunately, the matter did not end there. The next day Commissioner Haight made no progress on setting up the poll site and began asserting that the judge's ruling required the polling sites outside of Vassar to be relocated to Vassar campus. In other words, rather than the Vassar site being an additional site to those previously published and set up for the three districts covering Vassar campus, Commissioner Haight asserted the Vassar site would be the only site. Also on Friday, November 4, 2022, at around 4:55 pm, Commissioner Haight filed a notice of appeal, which arguably could be construed as providing him with an automatic 5-day stay of the Supreme Court's order.

In response, we filed an emergency motion with the Supreme Court seeking clarification of the prior decision, and emergency relief in the Appellate Court as well, clarifying that there was no stay. Both motions were successful.

Midday on Monday, November 7, 2022, the Supreme Court denied our request to clarify its earlier order, however in doing so it explained that its earlier order was clear, it "explicitly granted [the League's] requested relief in its entirety, specifically, the designation of a polling site on the Vassar College campus. There was no request for replacement or removal of any other polling site." Shortly thereafter, the Appellate Court issued a decision holding that the Supreme Court's order to set up a polling place had not been stayed by Commissioner's Haight's notice of appeal.

Ultimately, the Board of Elections was able to set up the polling site last minute. 132 individuals voted at the campus polling site. The League is proud to have enabled these voters with access to vote, which is central to our mission. Thanks to all who assisted with this litigation.

In Memoriam

We are sorry to report the passing of Irene McInnis, on November 17, 2022. Irene had been a very active member of the League. Jean McGarry remembered, " Irene was responsible for the success of many of our social occasions and fundraisers, especially those that were held at Wiltwyck Country



Club. She seemed to have a direct line to the kitchen. Always cheerful and willing to help in any way possible, she was a lovely lady who has been missed these past years." Please keep her family in your thoughts -

<https://www.keyserfuneralservice.com/obituaries/irene-mcinnis>



WINTER WELL with Holistic Health Community and Live Well Kingston 12/3

Come Out and Join the Holistic Health Community, in collaboration with the YWCA of Ulster County and Live Well Kingston from the City of Kingston, for the YWCA's 1st Winter Well! ❄️

This event will take place on Saturday 12/3, from 12pm-3PM, at the YWCA of Ulster County (209 Clinton Ave. Kingston, NY 12401). There will be Yoga classes, Tarot Readings, Hypnotherapy and so much more! The holistic healthcare sessions must be booked in advance, and you can do that [HERE](#)

There will also be a chance for you to connect with some community based organizations from our community as well as enjoy some amazing food from **We Got The Juice** ! Please RSVP with us at info@ywcaulstercounty.org if you would like to table with an organization. We are looking forward to staying warm with you all! ❄️



Municipal Redistricting maps are due this year. Your voice is requested!

New York's local governments will be redrawing district boundaries before the 2023 election cycle. To learn more about the process you can watch this video about redistricting and what the issues

might be, as the City of Kingston begins the process. Lars Dahl, LWV Albany County is a featured speaker.

Watch the YouTube video [HERE](#).

You may want to read this article, as a follow up, that Member Leslie Simons called to our attention:

Check out this article from Times Herald-Record:

NY's redistricting commission leader departs, calling process a 'spectacular failure'

<https://www.recordonline.com/story/news/2022/11/18/nys-redistricting-commission-leader-david-imamura-departs/69657906007/>

A good article about the Assembly Redistricting can be found here:

<https://mailchi.mp/capitaltonight/morning-memo-williams-gov-run-gains-endorsement-from-nyc-group-409199?e=68e735be37>

If you don't already subscribe to the "Capital Tonight" emails, you might want to do so...

Put MOTHER EARTH on your gift list!
Our local Resource Recovery Agency in Ulster County (UCRRA.org) is particularly full of good ideas for celebrating each season and various holidays with minimal damage to our favorite, most generous relative of all, Mother Earth. Here's a link to a currently appropriate blog, "Greening the Holidays"
<https://ucrra.org/greening-the-holidays/> .



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 New York State 2022 Redistricting Maps [HERE](#).

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Environmental Impact

by Cynthia Bell

COP27 Hydrogen Transition Summit Report



I was able to attend the H2

Transition Summit virtually this year and had the unique opportunity to compare this year's event to COP26 in Scotland. I will endeavor to distill my 8+ pages of notes into something resembling a brief report here.

Hydrogen fuel (H₂) can be made from fossil fuels (Blue H₂), renewables (Green H₂), nuclear energy (Pink H₂), fracked methane (Gray H₂) or a blend (e.g., fossil fuels paired with Carbon Capture). The bulk of the discussion concentrated on Green H₂,

as that is the one that will accomplish the most in reducing greenhouse gases (GHG).

Is Blue Hydrogen perfect? No, but it is the most common type of H₂ now. As one speaker put it, “We won’t allow perfect to be the enemy of good.” Every technology must be employed now.

All of that said, I will simplify by noting some major points:

- The Paris Agreement Article 6 framework remains empty, though talks have progressed. What is needed is global agreement on reporting and methodology. What is happening now is that some areas are instituting their own. China has instituted a Carbon Tax and California has a Cap and Trade policy. Even the language these agreements will be based on are not set.
- Permitting process is too slow. As one speaker put it, “We are governments, we are slow. Show us the way.”
- Certification needs a common international methodology and simple, effective policies to institute.
- Transparency of process for credibility and integrity.
- Methodology for verifiable measurements and reporting as well as common policies.
- Governmental policies allowing for public/private investor confidence and bankability/financial viability of projects. There is great interest in these projects from venture investors and emerging markets as well.
- While it is important to accelerate efforts, it is equally critical to do it right. “We need to get it right for the big scale-up.”
- Loss and Damage - I note that, the Congo Basin (known as the world’s ‘second lung’) is threatened by social/governmental unrest and famine. Once support is given, the citizens can begin to rebuild their societies and learn new ways to not just survive but thrive where they live.

Hydrogen power is a proven technology that not only burns clean but is portable, safe and sustainable using renewable resources.

It is well established that this will be an important part of the

many solutions needed to keep the earth's warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It will eventually provide clean fuel for most or all aviation, rail, shipping and large trucks. Mining, concrete and steel will all be made, and made well using electrified processes powered by H2.

Ending thought by the event moderator, citing an African Proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

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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 December 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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