



Commentator

APRIL 2013

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action


The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.

President:
 Dare Thompson
darethompson@gmail.com
 (845) 236-3074

Newsletter:
 Jim McGarry
lwvmhr@hvc.rr.com
 845-336-0304

Membership:
 Betty Chin
Blc2003@hotmail.com
 845-331-2572

CALENDAR

CALENDAR		
APRIL		
2	Tues. 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
3	Wed. 10:30 am	LWV MHR Resource Development Meeting , home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Rd, Kingston, 845-339-3180.
9	Tues. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee , Gateway Diner, Rt. 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For info and to confirm: Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, packback56@yahoo.com
13	Sat. 2 pm	“Green” Spring Cleaning and De-Cluttering workshop with Sarah Womer at Le Express at 1820 Rt 376 (New Hackensack Rd), a little north of the Dutchess County Airport in Red Oaks Mill (Poughkeepsie). Also visit Simplicity, Megan Lawrence’s Eco-Boutique, next door.
14 - 17	Sun. – Wed.	Students Inside Albany – We wish our LWVMHR student, Joe Pugliese, a very enjoyable and educational experience at the award-winning state LWV-run program!
19	Fri. 7 – 9 pm	Forum on Genetically Modified Food , including the film <i>Deconstructing Supper</i> , with Vassar professors Mary Ann Cunningham (geography) and Mark Schlessman (biology). Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting, 249 Hooker (at Whittier, just west of Grand), Poughkeepsie. Free and open to all.
22		Earth Day 2013
23	Tues. 5 – 7 pm	A discussion of “Food Insecurity in Ulster County,” a report from the Center for Research, Regional Education, and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz. At the home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Rd, Kingston, 845-339-3180.
MAY		
7	Tues. 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989
10	Fri. 10 am	Dutchess Shared Services Committee , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Rd., Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, echarwat@yahoo.com
14	Tues. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee , Gateway Diner, Rt. 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For info and to confirm: Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, packback56@yahoo.com
23	Thurs. noon	LWV Annual Meeting Luncheon featuring Gerald and Liz Benjamin. Ulster BOCES, Rt. 32, New Paltz. Catered by Main St. Bistro. Cost TBA. Non-members most welcome.

For updates, check our **Calendar on-line at**
<http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>

Prez Sez...

This issue of the *Commentator* includes all the information that our by-laws require that members receive well in advance of the **Annual Meeting**.

The next issue will provide more details about our distinguished guests, **Dr. Gerald Benjamin** of SUNY New Paltz and director of its Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach, and his daughter, **Liz Benjamin**, who appears each weekday evening as host of YNN's "Capital Tonight."

We'll also explain more fully our proposed program for the coming year.

Meanwhile, please mark your calendars with the date, **Thursday, May 23**, and location – the **Ulster County BOCES in New Paltz** (just north of town on Rt 32).

The Benjamins' schedules makes a daytime meeting necessary, and this is a change for us, so please note that this is at **noon**. To make it a little more celebratory, we're having it catered by the popular New Paltz eatery, Main Street Bistro.

Of course there are many other League activities between now and then, so please check the calendar and articles elsewhere in this *Commentator* and **join us whenever you can**.

Monday, April 22 Earth Day 2013

Simple Things *YOU* Can Do To Save The Earth

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Put on a sweater – or a tank top!</p> <p>2. Put one foot in front of the other – walk, ride your bike, or carpool!</p> <p>3. Go for seconds – reuse items a second and third time.</p> | <p>4. Watch your waste – some items contaminate the environment.</p> <p>5. Paper nor Plastic – bring your reusable bags to the store.</p> <p>6. BYOB – use reusable water bottles.</p> | <p>7. Flip 'em off – unnecessary lights.</p> <p>8. Get in touch with your roots – Plant a tree!</p> <p>9. Get Off – catalogues from companies you don't buy from!</p> |
|---|---|--|

VOTER SERVICE

Naturalization Ceremony

On March 15, twenty-nine individuals became citizens of the United States at the Ulster County Court House. Thank-you to league members Shirley Kobran, Karen Miller and Dorothy and Bob Winrow who distributed voter registration information to all the participants. We have Nina Postupack, Ulster County clerk and recent league member, to thank for bringing this very moving ceremony back to Ulster County. There will be more opportunities for league members to participate since the Naturalization Ceremony in Ulster County will now be held four times a year: March, June, September and November or December. This is a great opportunity for league members to get involved. It requires only about two hours of your time but it truly speaks for what the league is all about. Guaranteed, you will come away feeling uplifted from the experience. Hope to hear from you in June when I give out "the call" again.

Jean McGarry

Moderating Guidelines

Guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events are our website. Check it out and please refer anyone who is interested in sponsoring a debate to our website. The guidelines are at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Monthly Board meeting minutes and more can be found at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Committees.html>

PROGRAM NEWS

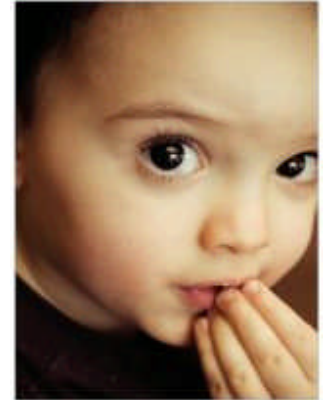
Food Insecurity In Ulster County

A discussion of the CRREO study of hunger in Ulster County. The study, by Sue Books, was published in the Fall of 2012 by the Center for Research, Regional Education, and Outreach at SUNY New Paltz. www.newpaltz.edu/crreo/crreo_hunger.pdf

League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region
www.lwvmidhudson.org

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 5 PM to 7 PM
Tea & toast, wine & snacks

At the home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston, NY 12401, 845-339-3180, mcsellers@aol.com



Mid-Hudson Agriculture: Growing our Economy and our Communities

Agriculture

It's hard to ignore agriculture if you live in the Mid-Hudson Region and we urge you to let Dare Thompson (845-236-3074, darethompson@gmail.com) know if you would like to join a study committee **TO REVIEW** the LWVUS position on Agriculture originally adopted in 1988 and now quite out of date.

The Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THESE ISSUES, several members are already attending and holding meetings related to the topic. Vic Melville summary of a recent regional agriculture conference at follows and on the calendar and elsewhere in this Commentator you'll see details about a program on genetically-modified foods on April 19, 7 – 9 pm, at Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting and a discussion of food insecurity on April 23, 5 – 7 pm, at Margaret Sellers' home in Kingston.

. Mid-Hudson Agriculture: Growing Our Economy and Our Communities

LWV-MHR members Jolanda Janson, Vic Melville, and Dare Thompson attended a March 1 conference on this topic at SUNY New Paltz. Vic submitted the following summary:

The conference was designed to take the [CRREO](#) projects and reports: [Agriculture Supporting Communities in the Mid-Hudson Region](#) and [Food Insecurity in Ulster County](#) a step further. Over 100 farmers, policy makers, community leaders, and interested citizens came together to help nurture farms in the region, create local distribution and markets for farmers, and help get healthy, local food to Mid-Hudson residents.

From political perspectives, Samantha Diliberti, Regional Assistant to US Senator Kristen Gillibrand and New York State Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk discussed the region's opportunities and issues in the context of the nation and state. Senator Tkaczyk is also a farmer and she stayed for the whole day. Julie Suarez, representing the New York Farm Bureau, placed an emphasis on the state of NY farming and farm policy. They also discussed the inherent uncertainties and risk of farm production and marketing due to market factors and the weather.

Topics on the agenda in the breakout sessions were: 1) Agriculture: Where Will We Be in Ten Years? 2) Regional Agriculture in Our Schools and Institutions, 3) Reaching the Regional Market,

Success Stories: Farm Food for Strengthened Families and Communities, and 5) Our Brand for 25,000,000 Customers in the Tri-State area.

CRREO's project and report on Food Insecurity was addressed by Sue Books of the Secondary Education Dept., and CRREO's project and report on Agriculture Supporting Community was

addressed KT Tobin of CRREO and Brian Obach of the Sociology Dept. While community-supported agriculture (CSA), farmers markets and farm stands may fill a marketing niche, they are often not affordable to many residents in the local communities.

Food Insecurity in Ulster County may be the most important local issue for county government and agencies to adequately understand and work to remedy.

The conference culminated in an overall discussion from "The Farmer's Point of View" by several farmers. They also stressed the uncertainties and risk of farm production and marketing and shared their personal experiences in making a living in farming. New rules and regulations in production distribution, intended to assure safe food, may add to costs.

This conference was organized by the SUNY New Paltz Center for Research, Regional Education, and Outreach (CRREO), with co-sponsors SUNY New Paltz College Auxiliary Services (CAS), Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Corporation, UlsterCorps, and LWV-MHR.

“What’s REALLY going on in Albany? What’s the LWV doing about it?”

As this Commentator was going to press, many of us were just returning from hearing **Barbara Bartoletti**, the LWVNYS legislative director (i.e. "lobbyist") share breaking news from Albany about the final tweaking of the **state budget**, going on throughout this past week, and other legislation about to move forward – or not – at the Capitol.

She remains distressed with the lack of transparency in the budget process and shared what I think is a huge secret about why budgets are now suddenly on time – and as you might guess, it's not a new-found sense of discipline at the Capitol. (See the March 22nd entry on Barb's weekly **Capitol Beat** blog on the state LWV website, www.lwvny.org, or click directly through to <http://lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com>).

The number and range of topics she hit upon today was dazzling – from gun control to financing education - and there's no room to share it all here. But not surprisingly, she spent considerable time on **campaign finance reform**; better ballot design, early voting and other **election reform** issues, and the **Women's Equality Agenda**, issues the state League hopes we'll visit our legislators to discuss.

Since Ulster and Dutchess Counties are served by five Assembly members and - thanks to some strange redistricting - SIX Senators (almost one tenth of the whole Senate!), it's no easy task. We welcome the participation of any of you who'd like to join us in these visits.

Meanwhile keep track of what is continuing to unfold in Albany by reading Barbara's Capitol Beat! It's like she's talking just to us.

Thank you, Barbara, for all you do and for visiting us at this busy time.

“Green” Spring Cleaning and De-Cluttering

“Green” Spring Cleaning and De-Cluttering

The arrival of April often brings on the urge to clean - including ditching all that clutter that's closing in on us. But does this mean sending lots of stuff to a landfill? "No!" says Beacon's **Sarah Womer**, and she's organized a League of Women Voters discussion to share her recycling wisdom with her fellow League members and the general public on **Saturday, April 13, at 2 pm** at the delightful and welcoming restaurant, **Le Express** at 1820 Rt 376 (New Hackensack Rd) a little north of the Dutchess County Airport in Red Oaks Mill.

Womer will offer an environmentally friendly way to dispose of just about anything, and participants will leave with lots of great tips as well as handouts on the upcoming household hazardous waste dates in the tri-state region, consignment shops and charities in the area, and even natural cleaning products.

After the gathering at Le Express, attendees will walk next door to Simplicity Eco-Boutique, a "curated" consignment shop owned by Megan Lawrence, whom Womer describes as a "recycling rock star," where we'll get even more ideas about turning potential trash into treasure.

The event is free and open to all. Le Express will open early just for us. Participants are welcome to order from the menu, but there is no minimum order required. Please help us prepare by reserving at info@lwvmidhudson.org.

ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Solid Waste Committee

March 2013

Members of the Solid Waste Committee spent February & March reviewing *Rethinking Waste: Dutchess County Local Solid Waste Management Plan*. Jolanda Jansen chaired the Committee meeting in February, to prepare for the Public Hearing (which we also attended). Based on the input of active members, we submitted our written comments. At our March meeting, Member Sarah Womer volunteered to organize a special event for April. It will focus on "Spring Cleaning" and how people can responsibly recycle or dispose of items they no longer use or need. There will also be tips on cleaning products that are not as harmful to the environment as a lot of the commercial chemicals.

Our next meeting is April 9th, 5:30pm, at the Gateway Diner in Highland. New members are always welcome!

Cindy Lanzetta

Dutchess County Shared Services Study

Ellie Charwat and her committee have prepared the following FAQs you may find interesting

Jail Fact Sheet Version 4-1

Highway Departments in Ulster County

Fire Districts in Dutchess County

Purchasing in Dutchess County Municipalities

Justice Courts in Ulster County

Bus Transportation

You can find links to these materials at http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html#s02

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress Regional Leadership Breakfast March 4, 2013 Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

The County Executives of Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster County responded to questions posed by the Poughkeepsie Journal and the audience on the topic "Tough Times, New Approaches." Many discussed shared services as one of their strategies.

Marc Molinaro of Dutchess said his administration is looking at the process as well as the outcome of county services. He discussed the \$2 million pool the county will use in grants to municipalities who will implement, not study, the sharing or consolidation of services. He mentioned the village and town of Rhinebeck are looking to share computer technology; the Town of Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park are looking at sharing snowplowing and sanding and equipment purchasing; Southern Dutchess is looking to integrate the administration of police departments. And Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Tivoli have talked about sharing planning and zoning administration.

Molinaro also thinks the Governor's focus on regional economic development councils is a good move which forces counties to work together. But counties still have a role to play in attracting and keeping businesses. To that end, he wants to create an economic development strategy and get public and private agencies to focus on their strengths, including the chambers of commerce and municipalities.

Michael Hein of Ulster County focused on the privatizing of the county nursing home and sharing strategies with the other counties to attract tourism to the region.

Scott Samuelson from Sullivan County agreed re tourism as a regional attraction, i.e. the Walkway, rail trails and casinos. He said casinos were not a panacea for economic development but one component of tourism and revenue generation.

Orange County Executive Edward Diana is also looking to privatize its nursing home that is costing the county an unsustainable \$19.16 million a year. He leans to a stronger role for county government in economic development – his IDA has worked successfully with towns, cities and villages and the Chamber to create and keep jobs and expand the tax base.

Other areas of possible shared services mentioned:

Sharing revenue from Stewart Airport that is a regional asset

- Tourism and transportation
- A regional purchasing collective
- Emergency planning and response
- Community colleges
- Solid waste
- Housing for seniors and young professionals
- Infrastructure investment

On Monday, April 29th, Marist College will host a discussion on “How to Move Beyond Partisanship” and will feature Congressmen Sean Patrick Maloney and Chris Gibson.

Notes by Ellie Charwat

**Laws and
Rules,
Governmental
Services
Committee**

Mar. 18, 2013 Start Time: 6:00 p.m. Finish Time: 7:00 p.m. [audio recording]

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting order. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 0187 regarding opposing Governor Cuomo’s proposed 2014 budget cuts to the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities – 30 day amendment was approved following discussion. Vinnie Mclaughlin and Margaret Sellers, members of the Ulster County Community Services Board, described the causes and expected effects (Vinnie is a client of these services) of the cuts. The cause of the cuts is the consequence of the Federal claw back of funds from the state. Vinnie said the Ulster-Green ARC’s reduction would be \$2.3 M and a loss of 70 jobs.

Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive, commended Vinnie and Margaret on their efforts to challenge these cuts and to seek restitution, and he mentioned the overall loss of funds.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0167 setting a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2013 – “The Ulster County School-Based Mental Health and Safety Act of 2013” to be held Tues., Apr. 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. was approved following a discussion of several procedural and content issues.

A point of discussion and contention between Legislator Robert Parete and Deputy Executive Ken Crannell was about the consequences of cuts in the current county budget; Mr. Crannell says “for the record” no services have been eliminated and that increased services (e.g bi-lingual) have been provided.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0172 regarding setting a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2013 re approval of contracts to be held Tues., Apr. 16, 2013 at 6:55 p.m. was approved.

Proposed LATE Draft Resolution No. 0185 regarding opposition to the proposed merger of Central Hudson and Fortis, Inc. was approved following an explanation by Legislator Hector Rodriguez and discussion of concerns by several legislators. Some legislators have received many constituent concerns.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 0186 regarding accepting the offer to purchase the UCCC president’s residence was approved following an extended discussion about the intent of the provision to use the Ulster County portion of the proceeds to fund the Veterans House.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 0188 regarding rescinding the Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature adopted on Jan. 3, 2012 and establishing new Rules of Order of the Ulster County Legislature (FIRST READING) was adopted following a contentious debate between Majority Leader Ken Ronk (in favor the new rules) and Minority Leader David Donaldson (not in favor of the new rules).

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 3/22/13

**Economic
Development
and Tourism
Committee**

Mar. 6, 2013 Start Time: 6:00 p.m. Finish Time: 6:20 p.m. [audio recording]

Chairman James F. Maloney called the meeting to order and took attendance.

The Feb. 13, 2013, meeting minutes were approved.

The Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0171 approving appropriation and guidelines for funding the

Kingston/Ulster Empire Zone was approved following discussion that it pertains to approximately 150 businesses to assist the process and monitoring.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0173 appointing alternative member to the Ulster County Planning Board – Town of Shandaken. Approved.

Under Discussion: March Gallagher, Deputy Director Planning, discussed the Gill Property on Washington Ave. and the county owned adjacent property that would be considered in a project, but it has a deed restriction of a “reverter clause” on it .

Following up a discussion of the committee’s Feb. 13 meeting, Ms. Gallagher has spoken to John Gill and he is interested in a broader view of project ideas. A survey and appraisal are planned.

The county portion is classified under the Thruway Authority as Vacant Commercial and declared as park land. The Thruway Authority would need to release the deed restriction for the county to sell the property.

Mr. Gill is to be invited the next committee meeting on Apr. 3, 2013 to discuss his interests.

The committee discussed the flood plain maps and land fill requirements.

Under New Business: Deputy Chairman Peter Loughran asked for a status report on active county projects. Legislator Ken Wishnick asked about the promotion of a UCDC project.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 3/22/13

**Environmental
Energy &
Technology
Committee**

Date: Mar. 7, 2013 Start Time: 5:46 p.m. Finish Time: 7:40 p.m. [audio recording]

Chairman Carl Belfiglio, called the meeting to order and took attendance. The meetings of Jan. 10, 2013 and Jan. 23, 2013 minutes were approved.

Guest presenter Manna Jo Green was not able to attend, but representatives from the town of Rosendale did attend to discuss the proposed Fortis, Inc purchase of Central Hudson. They discussed many concerns of the merge and encouraged the county government to raise these concerns and become involved. The committee also heard some positive comments on the possible outcome of a merger. The committee moved toward formulating a county resolution (Legislator Robert Parete and Deputy Chair Tracey Bartles) and to discuss with County Executive Mike Hein and Assemblyman Kevin Cahill (Legislator John Parete).

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0162 regarding appropriation for the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District was approved.

Proposed Draft Resolution No. 0184 requesting the introduction of legislation to amend Article 13-G of the Public Authorities Law relating to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency was voted - to be held until the next meeting, following an extended discussion of several options for moving the resolution and discussion of several issues of the content of a resolution.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 3/22/13

**Legislative
Programs,
Education &
Community
Services
Committee**

Date: Mar. 13, 2013 Start Time: 5:02 p.m. Finish Time: 6:03 p.m.

Chairman Wayne Harris called the meeting to order, attendance taken and the meeting minutes from Nov. 27, 2012 and Jan. 9, 2013 were approved

Draft Resolution No. 0160 authorizing the chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the Dutchess County Arts Council for the 2013 appropriation – Legislature was approved following a discussion with Eve Madalengoitia, Director Dutchess County Arts Council. She emphasized the awards objectives, financial amount, process, and the timeline. The committee discussed the history of the awards process and they are pleased with the current process.

Draft Resolution No. 0161 regarding appropriation for the Cooperative Extension Association of Ulster County and authorizing the chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute the agreement was approved following a discussion by Melinda Herzog and Roxanne Churchill, CCE staff, of their programs and activities, and a discussion by Ken Crannell, UC Deputy County Executive, on funding payments.

Draft Resolution No. 0166 regarding authorizing the chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to

enter into agreement with Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. was approved following a discussion with R. Michael Lamoree, Executive Director Community Action Committee of the status of the programs and of the initiatives to improve their services.

Draft Resolution No. 0181 regarding approving the collective bargaining agreement between the County of Ulster and the UCCC Faculty Association at no cost to the county was approved. Mr. Crannell commended UCCC on the contract process.

Draft Resolution No. 0182 confirming appointment of member to the Ulster County Youth Board (recommended by the County Executive) was approved.

Draft Resolution No. 0186 regarding accepting the sale of the UCCC president's house was approved, as amended, to include a language of the intent to use (as much as available) the county portion of the funds for the Veterans House.

Kathy Keyser, UCCC Coordinator of the RISE (Reaching Independence through Supportive Education) program, presented a description of the program and discussed recent participants. This is the only program of its kind in New York State.

Jim Cosgrove, head of the Mid-Hudson Library Association, thanked the committee for the UC allocation and discussed the consolidation of services within the libraries.

There was a brief discussion of the effects of Federal Sequestration. E.g. on the UC Community Action weatherization program.

In conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Harris welcomed comments from anyone else attending the meeting. This LWV observer spoke on the Mid-Hudson Agriculture conference (co-sponsored by the LWV Mid-Hudson Region) held on Mar. 1, 2013 at SUNY New Paltz, and I emphasized the CRREO report on Food Insecurity in Ulster County and encouraged the county government to pursue this issue.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer Corp, 3/22/13

**Legislative
Health and
Personnel
Committee**

March 4, 2013 5:30 PM

Committee Members: Bob Aiello, Chairman, Jeanette Provenzano, Deputy Chair, Carl Belfiglio, Kenneth J. Ronk Jr., Robert S. Parete

Also present: Kenneth Crannell, Deputy County Executive, Cheryl Qamar, Deputy Commissioner, UCMH, Kristin Carney, Director, Administration, UCMH

1. The committee received the new monthly personnel report from the Executive with thanks, and proceeded to discuss and vote on resolutions for the March 19, 2013 legislative session.

Draft Resolution No. 0167 Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2013 (A Local Law Of The County Of Ulster, New York, Known As The "The Ulster County School-Based Mental Health and Safety Act of 2013"), To Be Held On Tuesday, April 16, 2013 At 7:00 PM sponsored by Legislator Rob Parete was discussed at length. The resolution, partially a response to the Newtown Connecticut violence, supports both a school-based mental health program and safety officers for schools, to be funded by a percentage of the county sales tax. Legislator Provenzano favored the mental health programs, but opposed the part of the bill which gives county tax dollars to school districts. Legislator Aiello viewed it as an overall tax increase. He felt that the tax burden was already too high. Legislator Ronk did not favor the fiscal measures but was willing to allow for a public hearing discussion of the matter. The measure passed, 3 for, 2 against. Subsequently, it was not affirmed by Ways and Means. It was passed by Laws and Rules where Deputy County Executive Crannell introduced a new Executive program to work with BOCES to survey the need for and possibly to provide Mental Health services at little or no cost to the County. The measure was later referred back to Rules from the floor of the Legislative session.

The following two resolutions were passed unanimously without discussion.

2. **Draft Resolution No. 0168** Requesting New York State Governor Cuomo And The New York State Legislature To Promote Access To School-Based Mental Health Clinic Treatment Services By

Eliminating Financial Obstacles

3. **Draft Resolution No. 0169** Requesting President Obama And The United States Congress To Promote Access To School-Based Mental Health Clinic Treatment Services By Eliminating Financial Obstacles And Supporting “*The Student Support Act*” H.R. 320

4. **Draft Resolution No. 0176** Amending The 2013 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Mental Health to accommodate funds from NYSOMH resulting from a re-allocation of funds making available funding for Community Support Program-Child and Family funds. These funds will be passed through by contract to Astor Services for the operation of a non-clinical Child and Family services support program. The Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health, Cheryl Qamar, explained the process. The Committee was grateful for her presence. The resolution was passed unanimously.

5. **Draft Resolution No. 0180** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health, Bureau Of Communicable Disease Control For The Aid To Localities Rabies Reimbursement Program – Department of Health. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned about 7:30 PM.

Margaret Sellers, Observer

Board of Health

The March 11, 2013 meeting was convened at 6:40 by Chairman, Dr. Marc Tack. As of this meeting the Board will be meeting at UCMH building, Room 330-303 at Golden Hill at 6:30. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37.

Present: Drs. Tack, Delmar, Woodley, as well as member Graham, Hildebrandt, Absent: Elizabeth Kelly

Other attendees: Commissioner Dr. Smith, Dr. Heller, Medical Examiner, Nereida Veytia, Deputy and Director of Patient Services, Richard Parrish UC EMS Coordinator, Cheryl Qamar, Deputy Commissioner of UCMH and Katrina Kouhout, Secretary to the Commissioner.

Following the approval of the February 2013 minutes, elections for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary took place: Chairman, Dr. Tack, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Woodley, and Secretary, Dr. Delmar.

Next on the agenda were reports from Commissioner Smith:

On March 26, 2013 there will be a Community Health Assessment Stakeholders Summit meeting sponsored by the UC Health Department, and held at UCCC. The goal of this endeavor is to develop a discussion with the stakeholders and produce a combined plan on Community Health Priorities which will produce measureable results. Two areas to be emphasized will deal with chronic disease: diabetes, heart disease, and cancer; and alcohol abuse rates in UC which apparently are higher than state numbers or the national average.

Contact with Health Alliance among other groups and CRREO to develop the data and utilize such to determine status of health in UC. Apparently such data can also be utilized to apply for related grants.

The discussion that is expected to take place among the stakeholders is hoped to come up with information and data that will help in making a difference in improving health status of UC residents.

In the fall, 2013 the plan is to use data collected to develop best practices among local stakeholders.

The next report dealt with a Legionella case: the most recent at Ten Broeck Commons nursing home, which is working at correcting its water system. The state is working with the home to correct the water system and eradicate the problem. One of the concerns is to be careful how hot the water temperature is set to avoid scalding the users. Hyper-chlorination is one step to correct the problem.

Food Establishment Permits was the last report: There are about 700 permits which have been sent out as of January 1, 2013 with a return date of February 28, 2013 along with their fees. At present about 30-40 have not returned such. Prospects for fining/closing. Expect to report on such at the next meeting. While Dr. Heller, the Medical Examiner was called away during the meeting his report indicated 26 calls had been received, 3 site visits made, 11 autopsies, 1 suicide, no motor vehicle cases and 1 homicide for the month of February.

The last item on the agenda was a report on patient services that Mrs. Veytia provided: The initial item dealt with an update on the TB cases in UC. During the last few weeks there have been 4 cases: 1 remains in isolation pending the results of the culture taken by the lab; the second case apparently had no positive results; the third case involved an individual who was a resident of Orange County who was a victim of domestic abuse, apparently transferred from St. Lukes in Orange County to Kingston Hospital with pneumonia, but is now in isolation there; the 4th case appeared as of March 11; there is no definitive information at this point. Whatever information or tests or cultures are needed have been taken in these cases.

Eleanor Troy, who has been in charge of the public health preparedness programs has left; permission to fill the empty slot has been received from the county executive's office; and the work has been and will be handled by Mrs. Veytia and others until a replacement is named.

During discussion prior to adjournment the group talked about mass gatherings and the process that is to be followed. At the next meeting the group will be discussing this topic as to what was previously done and what new information has been acquired in the interim.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Golden Hill
Local
Development
Corporation
(GHLDC)**

The Board was convened by Chairman Dare Thompson on March 27, 2013 at 4:10 and adjourned at 5:03.

Present: Thompson, Beckman, Hanson, Bernholz, Sudlow

Absent: Iannuzzi, Provenzano

Other Attendees: Clinton Johnson, First Asst. County Attorney, Kenneth Crannell, Deputy County Executive, Amy Borden, Paralegal, Burt Golnick, Finance Commissioner, C.J. Rioux, Deputy Finance Commissioner, Joseph Eriole, Deputy Comptroller

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the December 12, 2012. Following that the group took up the question of paying the bills: three to Harris Beach (general corporation matters/professional services rendered); and one to the environmental group employed by the corporation (prepping the building to be sold). Apparently half the \$14,950 bill for this last item is to be paid by the purchaser. Motion to pay the bills was passed.

The next item on the agenda dealt with a review of the various financial statements that were submitted to the Board. This report was from the CPA firm Toski & Co. The report was the audit of the GHLDC financial statement. The audit indicates that these statements reflected a fair statement in all respects with regard to the status of the GHLDC as of December 31, 2012. Deputy Commissioner Rioux reviewed each of the part of the document. The auditing report indicated that it had no problems in being able to work with the material provided or the people with whom they dealt. The motion to approve was passed.

The next item dealt with the review of the Paris ABO Reports. Mr. Hanson, the Treasurer of the Board handled the review. The material reviewed covered how the Corporation handled its responsibilities in dealing with its goal to sell the County Nursing Home: mission statement, Board goals, observance of Section 2824 (1) of the Public Authority Law, personnel involved, summary of financial information related to its work, etc. Motion to accept was passed and Mr. Hanson was directed to file the report.

Under Old Business DCE Crannell reported the status of the license approval, of which the Certificate of Need (CON) process is part of, has progressed since the application was filed 12-20-12 with the Public Health & Health Care Planning Council (part of the NYS Department of Health).

Based on his comments/explanation the process has moved forward very rapidly, the council approved its part of the process; and the DOH will be taking the application up at its April 11 meeting. Mr. Crannell suggested that given how the process has moved ahead so rapidly that it was possible that come July 1, 2013 the matter could be finalized. He also noted that local staff visited the buyer's Susquahana facility which went a long way toward helping everyone become more at ease and better acquainted.

Various positive comments were made by Board members:

- the 10 member team that worked on this project was always there, worked well, achieved much;
- the work done by DCE Crannell, Attorney Johnson, Planning Director Dennis Doyle, so very important, the hours spent, meetings attended including the travel that was required, went a long way to the successes involved;
- Sheree Cross, Director of the Golden Hill nursing home was lauded for the work she has done from the beginning of the project; and the oversight to getting the electronic project of all the records was amazing..."a real professional".

It was also noted that the buyer worked with the group in working on the electronic system at the nursing home. It brought in people to help move it along. Local staff were also applauded for their positive efforts in working on this project.

It was noted that there would be some additional billing from Brinnier and Larios, which the Board elected to handle by approving payment pending their individual review via e-mail.

An additional item that Mr. Johnson noted was that effective June 15 the insurance policy of coverage of the board will be dropped. It will be renegotiated. He said that this was a standard procedure.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

UC Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors

The March 26, 2013 meeting was begun at 8:40 by T/Rochester Supervisor, President Chipman and adjourned at 9:31. (Note: The original March meeting of 3-19-13 was postponed due to weather).

Present: Ulster, Marbletown, Shawangunk, Rochester, Wawarsing, Hurley, Woodstock, Olive

Note: Initially, Dominic Tagliaferro, a new member of the UCRRRA board, introduced himself to the T/Supervisors. He explained that he wished to become acquainted with the group, advised that if they had any questions or concerns to contact him (he distributed his card), so that he could be a more effective board member.

County Executive Hein was first on the agenda:

- as to gaming (the ongoing topic in T/Wawarsing) he stated that he would not get in the way of what the town is in support of; means jobs;
- presently \$32 million is being spent by county on law enforcement. He has encouraged the county legislature to address such; to form a commission (not a committee) to talk with people who are experts, discuss how sustainable this is in coming times; to keep people safe;

From comments made by the group it appears that the group is aware of the concerns/positions of the unions and the latter's power re endorsements which makes this a political issue as well as a financial one; does legislature have the will to address such was a question raised;

- Mr. Hein noted county is addressing solid waste;
- mental health issues are/have been addressed, i.e. working with Astor House; in Ellenville opening weekend hours with people; have Spanish speaking clinicians now to work with people; UC has redefined how it provides these services, improving such as it does;
- \$1.6 million in CHIP state money is coming into the county (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program) to use for highways and bridge repair;
- Mr. Hein spoke at length about the continued development of the rail trail, how its continuation can be beneficial to the county through tourism, jobs, etc; there has been co-operation from the state and other organizations. He commented that one problem that needs to be addressed is having individuals on the rail trail committee who will benefit financially from the results.

At that point the next speaker, Randolph Horner of Silicon Solution asked Mr. Hein to clarify his comments on the Fortis/Central Hudson subject (they had spoken on 3-25-13): Mr. Hein explained that Dutchess/Orange county executives had wanted all three to support such. He indicated that he told them UC was uncomfortable with that; wanted a \$5 million fund for job development of jobs under \$60,000 before that was done.

Mr. Horner spoke next: noted he is not anti-business but pointed out that Central Hudson had spent decades building up services for users. Further, he stated that the Public Service Commission had determined that Fortis offers customers services which are inferior to what exists now; and may try to

use NATA (North American Treaty Alliance) to acquire Central Hudson.

Mr. Horner is urging everyone to use the five weeks remaining before apparently the final decision is made to urge the Public Service Commission to go back and review the process that has so far been involved. He stated that any upgrades Fortis promises are really delayed maintenance that has existed for several years due to austerity budgets that Central Hudson has had to employ; that Fortis will not pay for such, the customers will. His final point: there are better purchasers like NYSE & G, National Grid available.

Minutes of the January, 2013 Supervisors' meeting were approved. Treasurer reported \$6,824.72. Mr. Chipman advised the group that at the April meeting there will be a speaker who will talk about how the Federal Health Care Act will impact the towns.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has completed its work for the 2012-2013 year. It offers the following nominations for positions on the Board of Directors and for the next Nominating Committee:

For officers and directors, each for two year terms: 2013-2015

Vice-President: Jolanda Jansen

Treasurer: Dorothy Winrow

Directors:

Irene McInnis, Anne Needham, Lee Ridgway

For members of the Nominating Committee, who will have a one year term, 2013-2014, and are selected from the membership (two more will be appointed from the Board by the Board):

Cynthia Lowe, Shirley Kobran, Renee Sachs

ANNUAL MEETING	Thurs., May 23, noon. Luncheon followed by business meeting. Ulster BOCES Main Campus, Route 32, New Paltz (175 North Chestnut Street, New Paltz, NY 12561.) Meal cost TBA	
Nominating Committee Report: Election of Directors, Officers & Nominating Committee	Directors	Officers
	Irene McInnis (13-15) Lee Ridgway (13-15) Anne Needham (13-15) Continuing: Cindy Lanzetta (12-14) Esther Stickley (12-14) Margaret Sellers (12-14)	Vice Pres: Jolanda Jansen (13-15) Treasurer: Dorothy Winrow (13-15) Continuing: President: Dare Thompson (12-14) Secretary: Jean Mc Garry (12-14)
Programs	Nominating Committee	
	Shirley Kobran	Reneé Sachs Cynthia Lowe
	Program Proposals	
	1. Continuing: Studies of Shared Services and Solid Waste, 2. New: A study of the Ulster and Dutchess County budgets, a study of the financing of local public education, and participation in the Update of the LWVUS Agriculture position..	

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014*Fiscal Year is June 1 - May 31*

	Actual Totals 2011-2012	Actual Totals to 03/04/13	Approved Budget 2012-2013	Proposed Budget 2013-2014
Income				
Individual Dues	3025	1875	3150	3150
Household Dues	1350	925	1200	1200
Interest	89.19	29.77	76	50
Contributions: Gen Fund	829	447.28	1000	900
Contributions: Ed Fund	1995	600	1800	1800
Fundraising	27.44	4545	3000	4500
Ads/Sponsorships	0	0	500	500
Voter Service	200	270	350	300
Individual Dues	3025	1875	3150	3150
TOTAL	7515.63	8692.05	11076	12400
Expenses				
Operations, phone,web	1534.75	781.18	1100	1200
Organizational Activities	299.96	459.32	450	650
Educational Activities	944.84	601.02	1313	1210
Public Programs	295	21.71	400	400
Delegates	320	0	600	800
Comm Printing	524.57	496.12	600	600
Comm. Mailing	299.6	307.1	350	350
LWVNYS	1449	1539	1566	1539
LWVUS	2415	2650.5	2697	2651
Fundraising	44	1689.59	2000	3000
TOTAL	8126.72	8545.54	11076	12400
SURPLUS	611.09	146.51	0	0