



# Commentator

## February 2010

*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: Jean McGarry  
[jfmcg@hvc.rr.com](mailto:jfmcg@hvc.rr.com)  
 845-336-6622  
 Newsletter: Jim McGarry  
[lwmhr@hvc.rr.com](mailto:lwmhr@hvc.rr.com)  
 845-336-0304  
 Membership: Betty Chin  
[Blc2003@hotmail.com](mailto:Blc2003@hotmail.com)  
 845-331-2572

CALENDAR		
2010		
FEBRUARY		
26	8:30 am	League members Jim McGarry and Cindy Bell are guests on WGHQ's "Feel Good Friday" program
27	9am-1pm	Helping Municipalities Reduce Energy Usage, Emissions, and Costs. Lecture Room 100, SUNY New Paltz
MARCH		
1	10:30am	Observer Corps meeting at Deisings, 111 North Front Street, Kingston
2	8:30am-12:30pm	Healthy Ulster Summit to present health data planning and establish a framework for organizing efforts. UCCC Student Lounge, Stone Ridge. No fee. Refreshments served. RSVP Katrina Kouhout (845) 340-3151 by February 26th.
2	7:15pm	Board meeting at Gloria Plasker's, 106 Park Street, Hurley
6	10am	Shared Municipal Services study at Jacki Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Dr., Hurley
8	11am	Finance Committee meeting at Margaret Sellers', 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston, NY
15	6pm-8pm	Moderator Training at the Town of Esopus Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen
16	7pm	Ulster County Legislature proclaims March 21-27 as League of Women Voters week, 6th floor, County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston
20	10am-noon	Shared Municipal Services Informational panel at City Hall, 420 Broadway, Kingston
26	8:30 am	League members Jim McGarry and Cindy Bell are guests on WGHQ's "Feel Good Friday" program
APRIL		
6	7:15pm	Board meeting at Jacki Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Dr., Hurley
10	9am	League members Jacki and John Moriarty are guests on WKNY with Jodi McTague
25	1-4pm	LWVMHR Golden Anniversary celebration at Wiltwyck Golf Club

Check our Calendar on-line at  
<http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>  
 for updated information

**Prez Sez...***Greetings,*

This past week many of our members gathered to pay our respect and to honor Emily Johnson who passed away after a very courageous battle with cancer. Emily was our first president and she continued being a major force for action and change throughout her 50 years of membership. I could fill my entire column with accolades to Emily but I am certain the humble, no nonsense Emily would not approve. Her message most likely would be, "Ok, Jean, enough, get on with business." And so I will with much gratitude to this great role model and mentor.

One thing is certain; it is not business as usual in these difficult economic times. On all levels of government, there is a call for greater efficiency of services and creative solutions to make better use of our resources. Recognizing the urgency of addressing these issues, our League is presenting the second program on environmental awareness on February 27. Any government official committed to reducing energy costs in his/her community should plan to attend. Additionally, our league is currently involved in a shared municipal services study and will hold a panel discussion on March 20 to better understand the ramifications of this proposal.

I urge all members to attend each of these programs and encourage your friends and family to attend. This is not a time to sit on the sidelines. We do need action. We do need change. Emily took up that banner 50 years ago. In her memory, let's keep the ball rolling.

*Jean*

**PROGRAM NEWS**

**Helping Municipalities Reduce Energy Usage, Emissions, and Costs – February 27<sup>th</sup> 9am-1pm**

In this workshop aimed primarily at environmental advisors and municipal officials and the advocates who work with them, experts will provide an overview of energy conservation and alternative energy initiatives and funding strategies. Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, Chair of the NY Assembly Energy Committee, will be the kick-off speaker.

**To see the program flyer go to:**

[http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/files/Keeping\\_PACE\\_with\\_Energy\\_Options\\_flyer.pdf](http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/files/Keeping_PACE_with_Energy_Options_flyer.pdf)

**Save the Date**

**Save the Date**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

This year our league celebrates 50 years of service to the Mid-Hudson Region. We'll gather

for a sumptuous luncheon and wonderful fellowship on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Wiltwyck Golf Club. There will be speeches and congratulations all around as well as a popular and inspirational guest speaker. You won't want to miss this remarkable event. Details will be mailed in the coming months.



**ADVOCACY  
COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

**Shared Services  
Study**

The Shared Services Study of the League has met three times since the beginning of the year. To date, one third of the projected report that deals with highways has been released for public comment. Frank Casetta wrote an excellent executive summary that helped put the study in perspective. The remainder of the report deals with the courts and economic development. This should be released in March.

The Committee has scheduled a panel to be held on March 20 at City Hall in Kingston from 10am to 12 noon. Marianne Collins is Dean of Advancement and

## Redistricting Reform: Visions for the Future in New York State

## OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS

## Ulster County Legislature Meeting

Continuing Education as well as Director of the Ulster Community College Foundation. She has agreed to serve as moderator. Panel participants from the county and townships will be selected shortly.

Jacki Moriarty and Margaret Sellers will develop a bibliography which will be put on the website. Selected material that has been developed by the group will also appear on our website. It is our hope that league members as well as other interested parties will be able to follow our progress.

The next meeting will be held on March 6, 2010, 10:00 at 167 Apple Hill Rd., Hurley. All are welcome.

NOTE: The Draft Report can be found on the County Website at [www.co.ulster.ny.us/municipalities/FINAL%20DRAFT%20Highway%20DOC%20with%20charts%20and%20maps.pdf](http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/municipalities/FINAL%20DRAFT%20Highway%20DOC%20with%20charts%20and%20maps.pdf) and Frank Cassetta's summary is at our website at [midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/files/Highway\\_Service\\_Cooperation\\_-\\_Summary.pdf](http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/files/Highway_Service_Cooperation_-_Summary.pdf)

Dare and Doug Thompson and Jean McGarry attended this public forum on the issue of redistricting on February 9, 2010 at the Rockefeller Institute in Albany. The panel included State Senator aide to Martin Dilan, Jeffrey Wice, Assemblymen Daniel Burling and William Parment, SUNY Professor Gerald Benjamin and Legislative Director (NYPIRG) Blair Horner. Moderator was Susan Arbetter, Capitol Correspondent and WCNY News and Public Affairs Director.

Much of the discussion centered on by whom and how redistricting should be determined. Assemblymen Parment was comfortable with the continued practice of using a legislative task force. Assemblyman Burling and Professor Benjamin supported [Assembly Bill A5279](#) and [Senate Bill S1614](#). This legislation would establish an independent reapportionment commission to propose district boundaries for Congress, State Senate and Assembly districts every ten years following the U.S. Census. The members of the commission would be appointed by the legislative leaders.

Mr. Horner regaled the audience with statistics showing the very high rates of re-election for incumbents. Part of his concern was the justification stated in A5279 and S1614. ..."the deck is stacked to favor the re-election of incumbents and to discourage potential challengers, as signified by the large number of unopposed elections and the largely uncompetitive nature of most other contests."

Also discussed was the importance of the census. By mid- March 2011, New York State should receive the census data. For more information on the census in New York State go to [nysenate.gov/census](http://nysenate.gov/census).

While we certainly came away with more questions than answers, it was a stimulating forum and we appreciated the LWVNYS Education Foundation for being a co-sponsor.

Videos of the Forum are available on the Rockefeller Institute's website at <http://www.rockinst.org/forumsandevents/>

*To see the text of the above mentioned bills, either click the bill name(s) above or go to <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/> and enter the bill number in the search tool. You will first reach a Summary page that includes a link to the full text.*

### LINKS:

Ulster County Legislature webcast - live & archived:

[www.totalwebcasting.com/live/ulster](http://www.totalwebcasting.com/live/ulster)

New York State meeting webcasts: [www.nysegov.com/webcast.cfm](http://www.nysegov.com/webcast.cfm)

Other local meetings: [www.statewidemediaproject.org](http://www.statewidemediaproject.org)

Recent legislation, agendas and minutes of the legislatures:

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/countygov/departments/legislature/clindex.htm> (Dutchess) <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/legislature.html> (Ulster).

<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/committeesinfo/index.html> (Ulster County)

Our Elections Page has links to Dutchess and Ulster County towns and villages websites at [http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/elections.html#Local\\_Gov\\_Sites](http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/elections.html#Local_Gov_Sites).

A special meeting of the County Legislature was held on 2/16. The regular meeting was rescheduled to 2/24 due to inclement weather. County Executive Mike Hein took this opportunity to give his 2010 State of the County address. For those of you who

may not have been able to attend or missed the articles in the [Daily Freeman](#) or the [Times Herald Record](#), go to the County Website at [www.ulstercountyny.gov](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov) for the full text of the address and look for the 2/18/10 entries under "Media/Press Releases" on the home page.

Mr. Hein's remarks included concerns that are shared by most... the condition of the economy and the effectiveness of current development programs, waste and inefficiency in government, jobs, looming budget gaps and public health.

He also pointed out a number of initiatives he's taken, including payroll expense reduction, transformation of the county Health Department, implementation of spending controls by the newly appointed Fleet Manager, critical jobs retention assistance, an anti-nepotism policy in county hiring, creating a banking consortium to help small business gain access to capital, and imposing a spending freeze on county spending not mandated by law or essential to public health and safety.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Hein acknowledged the cooperation and initiative of a variety of legislators, both Democrat and Republican, and Comptroller Auerbach during his first year in office. But he also expressed disdain when he stated ... *I do find it more than a little disingenuous whenever I hear elected officials talk tough on taxes and then, with their very next breath, oppose any hard choices needed to actually affect taxes.* and made ... *a call to action for all branches of government to set aside partisan politics and focus on the issues at hand.*

Of particular note to our membership are Mr. Hein's references to the Golden Hill Health Care facilities, his initiatives in the area of shared government services, and to his repeated references throughout his speech to the County Charter. Having a strong interest in the Golden Hill issue, a few years back the League undertook a study of the facility (more on that in our next issue). (See our Advocacy Committee Reports section for more on Shared Services)

More recently, the League undertook a substantial effort on behalf of the adoption of the Ulster County Charter which, in our humble opinion, was instrumental in its adoption. At a number of points, Mr. Hein attributed his ability to effectively deal with systemic, emergency and individual issues to the government structure the Charter created. He expressed his respect for the roles played by the Legislature and Comptroller and to those legislators who ...*set aside their personal interests and fought for this Charter.* He cautioned those who's intent is to erode the Charter that they'd find ... *no greater opponent...* than he. He observed that, contrary to claims that the cost of government would rise, it actually avoided a payroll increase of \$2.7 million dollars.

In closing, Mr. Hein shared his vision of the future to include a diverse and sustainable economy, a high "quality of life" and the healthiest county in New York State and a government that ...*serves the people and not the other way around.*

**NOTE:** Regarding the "health" of Ulster County, we strongly recommend you look over a report entitled [County Health Rankings](#) released February 17<sup>th</sup> by the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#). It can be found at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

**NOTE:** Read the Dutchess County Executive 2010 State of the County Address at [dutchessny.gov/CountyGov/Departments/CountyExecutive/CE2010StateofCounty.pdf](http://dutchessny.gov/CountyGov/Departments/CountyExecutive/CE2010StateofCounty.pdf)

Jean and Jim McGarry

## Economic Development and Tourism

Date: February 1, 2010      Start Time: 4:55 p.m.      Time: 7:10 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order with roll call and introductions by the attendees.

Mr. Jack Schoonmaker, consultant for Cross Roads Ventures, was introduced to discuss how the Modified Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park can provide significant economic and social benefits to the locale and region. The committee requested to have Dean Gitter, et al, of Cross Roads Venture, make a presentation to the full legislature (agreed). Dennis Doyle, director of Ulster County Planning, requested a presentation to the county planning department (agreed). The modified plan is expected to be finalized and signed in the next two months.

Mr. Ralph Mitchell, Hudson Valley Center for Innovation (HVCFI) Coordinator, introduced Mr. Jeremy Ellenbogen of the Seven 21 Media Center and Les Neumann of the HVCFI to discuss how the HVCFI benefits the economy of Ulster County and

how Ulster County could help fund and promote the joint activities planned with HVCFI, SUNY Ulster, and Seven 21 Media Center. The HVCFI is joining with the Seven 21 Media Center on programs for the media, alternative energy and entrepreneurial communities. There were questions and discussion what type and how many companies and organizations are currently involved, and what capacity does the center have for future development. The HVCFI and Seven 21 asked for \$50,000 (that would be additionally supported with matching funds) for marketing outreach. No direct action was taken by the committee.

Mr. Rick Remsnyder, director of Ulster County Tourism, discussed the outlook for tourism, leading with a discussion of where tourism is headed in 2010, highlighted by the new website [ulstercountyalive.com](http://ulstercountyalive.com) from MarketingWorks. Several subjects discussed included the NYC subway advertizing campaign, local revenues from mortgage and facilities (B&B's doing well) taxes, partnerships, internet activities, Thurway travel info funding, and working with other organizations.

Mr. Dennis Doyle, director of UC Planning, presented an overview of the department and encouraged visiting the department's web page. He then discussed many of the department's areas including:

Housing – the funding UC housing for the homeless thru a consortium, a housing awareness campaign, housing needs related to the Dyson report, a resolution on Community Development Block Grant (108 funding), and relationships with RUPCO and Cornell Co-op Extension.

Open Space - the Farmland Protection Board and Open Space Preservation were highlighted.

Transportation - the UC Transportation Council funding was explained, the I-587/Broadway and 209 projects were highlighted.

There was discussion of the Main Street program, the UC Planning Board & Zoning and the upcoming US Census.

Ms. March Gallagher of the County Executive Office then reviewed several economic development subjects including their approach to be business friendly and assist in coordination and problem solving. Highlighted were the banking consortium and the broadband stimulus program.

Mr. Bob DiBella of UC Public Transportation (UCAT) discussed the new bus schedules, routes and maps; the new fleet vehicles (hybrid are coming); and coordination with the City of Kingston.

Mr. Lance Matteson, president of the Ulster County Development Corporation (UCDC), for the sake of time withheld an overview of UCDC mission and moved on to discuss the 2010 UCDC Goals Summary, a proposed resolution regarding the formation of a local development corporation ( passed), and a proposed resolution regarding a stimulus special bonding authority (passed).

Other resolutions were passed, but a resolution to reappoint a member to the Ulster County Planning Board - Town of Lloyd was postponed and a resolution to appoint a member and alternative member to the Ulster County Planning Board - Town of Rochester was scratched.

Vic Melville

## Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services

Date: February 2, 2010      Start Time: 5:05 p.m.      Finish Time: 6:15 p.m.

Mr. David Donaldson, Deputy Chairman, called the meeting to order, followed by roll call and introductions by the attendees.

Mr. Donald Katt, President of SUNY Ulster, was introduced to review the SUNY Ulster enrollment, capital projects and the state budget cuts.

Regarding enrollment, there are more returning students which partially offset reduced state aid. There is a "maintenance of effort formula" which may, but has not, trigger an exposure of \$1.5M of not met. On-line courses and their funding were discussed. There was a request to maintain the current level of county funding with increases in tuition and expected enrollment, followed by a discussion of the funding amounts and process. The budget request first goes to the Ulster County Legislature then to the County Executive.

Regarding capital projects, the renovation of the nursing lab, a new fire alarm system, a HVAC system to be bid and a water acquirement system (a second water source is needed) were highlighted.

Mr. Katt introduced Ms. Marianne Collins, SUNY Ulster Dean of Institutional Advancement, to discuss the RISE program which has been a successful joint program with Ulster County and the Department of Social Services since 1986 for at risk students, and she discussed the nursing co-op with SUNY New Paltz and the new distance learning program with SUNY Utica Rome.

Ms. Lydia Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, reviewed their public/private 501 (C) (3) institutional mission, history, and status. Cornell Co-op was split off from Farm Bureau in 1955 to focus on programs while Farm Bureau could lobby. She then reviewed their wide variety of programs and projects related to water systems grants and contracts, NYSERTA, agriculture and youth, healthy Kingston Kids projects, and the effects of reduced funding from the county.

Ms. Gloria Lipton then addressed the committee about the need and funding for a skating facility. Mr. Donaldson asked about involving SUNY Ulster and local schools. Mr. Donald Katt is to be contacted.

Vic Melville

## Budget and Finance

The Budget and Finance Committee of the Legislature was convened by Deputy Chairman Alan Lomita at 4:50, February 3, 2010 and adjourned at 5:30. Members present except for Legislators Gerentine, Frey, Harris, Maio and Maloney. Other attendees were Chairman Wadnola, the Sheriff, Under Sheriff, both Election Commissioners, Comptroller, members of the County Executive's Office and the County Attorney.

There were 26 Resolutions to deal with.

The resolutions dealt with a variety of concerns: payment of taxes/conveyance of property back to the owner, a charitable organization; approving the executive of various contracts (72 in all; one of which was pulled to allow for more study and the gathering of additional information; one of which would remove a bridge in the T/Lloyd and federal stimulus dollars would cover 100% of costs); reinstatement of two Registrarial Clerk position for the UC Board of Elections cost of which to be covered through dollars saved through attrition dollars; authorizing Legislative Chairman to enter into various agreements involving the receipt by the county of federal or state dollars; to apply for a Local Government Efficiency Grant to continue the usage of shared services between the county and the towns; and the replacement of 6 vehicles (5 for the Sheriff's department and 1 for the Veteran's Administration) due to high mileage on the individual vehicles (up to 176,039 miles) and take advantage of cost savings at this time of year.

Lee Cane

## Health and Human Services

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was convened at 6:33 by Chairman Walter Frey on 2-4-10 and adjourned at 7:43. Members present: Frey, Parete, Fabiano, Petit, Briggs, Stoeckeler. Absent: Harris

Other attendees: Dr. Edward Brown, UCMH; DCE Beckman, Sheree Cross, Director of Golden Hill; Dr. Hasbrouck, PH Director.

Next meeting: First Thursday: March 6:30

Initially, the committee dealt with 9 resolutions dealing with a variety of memorandum of understanding contracts, inter-municipal agreements for DSS, UCMH, DOH, and the Department of Public Works to acquire additional funds, carry on programs for the departments noted and to upgrade the computer system at UCMH so the latter can bill Medicaid, Medicare and commercial insurance so that the county cash flow will be ensured.

DCE Beckman and Dr. Brown provided more detail with respects to the above noted renovation at MH. Dr. Brown stated the work being done in house, the costs would be covered under Federal Salary Sharing dollars. Since it would take 6-8 weeks to complete he could not guarantee the April 1 target date (comment from NYS has apparently also raised some question as to whether that date would stand). He also stated that further renovation to the building itself would be needed in the future in order to accommodate the changes in MH procedures. Such plans are on the drawing board and costs are being evaluated.

The next report was made by Sheree Cross, Director of Golden Hill. This was an update on Legionnaire's Disease. On 2-8-10 the pipe testing will be repeated at 25

sites. The samples will be sent to the Wadsworth Lab, which will handle at no cost to the county. There is a 7-14 day waiting period; depending upon the results will determine whether testing will be done in three months or the pipes at the Center will have to be flushed again. The long term process would be to install copper-silver ionization, which process would be put out to bid. There would be other procedures to deal with the pipes. These are unplanned expenditures which may be paid for through any savings realized through staff attrition; if not then through contingency funds.

Mrs. Cross made reference to the fact that the Center had received its rates for 2009 which if unchanged could provide it with \$1.4 million dollars; but rates for 2010 have not yet been received, which could change that.

Further she noted that she had received a call from the DOL suggesting that if the Center was going to close it would be prepared to assist the Center staff. Mrs. Cross said there have been a number of meetings at the Center to assure staff the Center is not closing, if it was plenty of advance notice would be provided. Chairman Frye stated no one is thinking of such, nothing has been discussed about such.

Dr. Hasbrouck then made an extensive power point presentation of the 2010 Reorganization Proposal of the local DOH.

Note: Dr. Hasbrouck repeated this presentation at the monthly Board of Health meeting as well. Further information containing charts is to be provided. Once received, there will be a summary of the presentation provided.

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A Special meeting of the Health and Human Services committee was convened at 6:30 by Chairman Walter Frey on January 21, 2010 and adjourned at 7:20. Members of the committee present Parete, Fabiano, Petit, Stoeckeler. Absent Harris and Briggs. Other attendees included Leg. Chairman Wadnola, Legislators Sheeley, Gerentine and Lomita; DCE Beckman, PHD Dr. Hasrouck and Director of the Golden Hill Center Sheree Cross.

Chairman Frey advised the group that the principal reason for the meeting was to up-date everyone regarding the Legionnaire's investigation at Golden Hill. He then turned the meeting over to DCE Beckman who noted that Dr. Hasbrouck and Director Cross would provide background on the issue prior to January 13 and the second diagnosis; and share such information as to what steps were being taken to remedy the matter.

Director Cross explained how the Center handles individuals who may be admitted who have pneumonia with respects to being tested for Legionella. The NYSDOH is notified if the test is positive. One of the two women who was diagnosed with pneumonia and positive for Legionella recovered; the other who was not admitted as having pneumonia was tested early in January and while testing positive, Mrs. Cross noted she did not die of Legionella (Question later about who made that determination her answer was that the Center's physician had).

The NYSDOH having been notified at the time of the first instance gave instructions regarding bathing.

The local DOH was involved from the beginning. Dr. Hasbrouck explained about the disease itself.

Pneumonia is a respiratory disease created by bacteria. Evaluation is made to determine if Legionella acquired at a hospital or a facility. More bugs are involved and a typical bug Legionella is one of such bugs which live in the environment, soil, water. To become infected one must breathe the bugs in. Could be an upper or lower respiratory situation. The medication used will depend upon which it is. As a consequence individual(s) with such symptoms must be monitored to determine what medications are appropriate. For Legionella there is a 10%-30% mortality rate.

If there is one case the question becomes whether others should be tested; two cases in the same facility, then such is appropriate.

The hot water system was examined at the Center (air conditioning system had been off for months; the disease can't grow in cold). Bugs like warm water about 90 degrees. Thirty-two water samples were taken and 16 were found to be positive. This was done prior to the second resident found to be infected. Changes in bathing process from showers to regular bath were instituted.

Recognized that the system had to be cleaned of the bug. Once remedy in place

then must come back in 10 days to check status, plus 1-2 days to get results of test. Expects to do a hot flush on the system on 1-22-10. The Center has extensive piping and length to such given the way the Center is built.

Question as to whether the Center's pipes could withstand the hot water flush given the history of the pipes. Mrs. Cross stated that the engineer and architect who had done the study said the pipes could handle such. Lowe's Plumbing/Heating did work on 1-21-10 as well and will be on call.

It has been recognized that the measures being put in place are preventive to remedy the present situation but county must still come up with permanent solution.

To question as to whether the Center has equipment to heat the water to the degree that it must be heated, Mrs. Cross said yes. She added that the Center has contracts with company to test the Center water twice a month at present, but not specifically for Legionella. The Center must ask for that. In the future the idea is to do this regularly.

DCE Beckman noted UC personnel have held on-going telephone calls with NYS DOH representatives. Asked state DOH why now? The Center never had the problem before. Answer did not clarify the situation.

Various questions asked about the residents. Director Cross noted that since fall, 2009 every nursing home in NYS by state law has had to have a plan in place to deal with emergencies.

If there was a pipe rupture during the flush the residents would be in their rooms with staff/volunteers assigned to each room; also certain places in the Center to which residents can be moved to care for them with staff in place to provide the care. Further, if need to move out of Center have arrangements can move to bus garage which is large and warm could move them there while deciding where to place them.

When the present situation developed Center personnel called the families of all 280 residents to advise them what was going on. Director Cross noted the staff was excellent in handling this aspect of work.

DCE Beckman noted the question of quarantining the Center had come up. The local DOH staff immediately surveyed the facility; NYSDOH was also involved. Quarantining was ruled out. He indicated that he wanted the meeting group to be aware that the county approached this situation as though it was an emergency situation. Also, that Director Cross started instituting procedures in the wing where the two residents had been at the outset and then throughout the entire facility.

He also stated his mother is a resident there and she is not nervous or scared. Mrs. Cross added that the Resident Council had met Friday, 1-15-10 and they too had indicated that they were not scared or nervous about the present situation.

DCE Beckman stated that the county's direction was preventive, to inform and to disclose so there would be no confusion; that everyone would be kept informed about the situation, what was going on, which included the public as well.

NYSDOH has sent recommendations with which the county has merged its own recommendations. The county also has maintained a record of all calls with NYSDOH.

Additionally, the local DOH took 20 tests of any residents who had upper respiratory symptoms: 18 were negative; 2 are pending.

Mrs. Cross noted what is being done is preventive, but county must stay on top of situation and develop a permanent resolution/solution to the matter.

It was noted that there are 280 residents, about 380 staff and about 20 transients at Center on a daily basis.

Prior to adjourning DCE Beckman, Dr. Hasbrouck and Director Cross were each acknowledged by Chairman Wadnola, Chairman Frey and other members for their effort as well as the staff at the Center.

Lee Cane

## Board of Health

The UC Board of Health was convened at 7:30 PM by Chairman Dr. Stellato and adjourned at 8:30 PM. All members were present except for M. Ostrander. Other attendees present: Medical Examiner (ME) Dr. Heller, Dr. Hasbrouck, PH Director, Kevin DuMond, Director Environmental Sanitation.

Initially, minutes of the January meeting and the meeting schedule for the year 2010 were approved.

Dr. Heller, UCME reported that his office had been relatively quiet during the month.



March 19 he will be taking a one day course, Coroners 101 sponsored by the Coroners/ME organization. At the next meeting he will review the requirements for handling death certificates. He has been having ongoing communication with state and local police and funeral directors. He has suggested to the latter, with whom he will be meeting, possible means to have an equitable distribution of services particularly as it pertains to picking up deceased personnel.

The next item dealt with an update on the status of the Delaware Aqueduct leak. This is a problem that has existed for 20 years. This involves the NYC aqueduct which leaks 36 million gallons of water daily into an area of southern UC resulting in e.coli being found in drinking water. In 2009 UC tried to fine NYC. The County Attorney advised that the county had gone about this in the wrong way.

Dr. Stellato continued, stating that it was time to re-examine this matter, that no government entity should be allowed to pollute drinking water. He will discuss with the County Attorney the possibility of finding a part of the UC Sanitary Code that would enable the county to do this.

During discussion it was suggested by Mr. Clegg that once Sanitation Code updating completed that the code would have a way to enable the county to do so; Dr. Tack asked whether the county legislator could do this; Mr. Clegg observed that the Board of Health was the appropriate body to handle this matter. Dr. Stellato noted that Senator Bonacic has sponsored a bill in the NYS Senate to make \$2 million dollars available to buy out those effected homeowners in the Ellenville area. If passed, Assemblyman Cahill has indicated he would sponsor a similar bill in the Assembly.

On January 22, 2010 a meeting of DEP, T/Warwarsing and the homeowners was held. There are 34 affected homeowners, 25 have had ultra violet light disinfection system installed, 15 of which have tested negative to e. coli. There will be another meeting 2-9-10. The matter is still not resolved. Dr. Hasbrouck suggested that the present sanitation coded just hasn't been updated. If NYC not compliant use the present code. Dr. Stellato will contact the County Attorney, Mrs. Havranek to check this.

He also reported that the DOH was partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension in applying for a grant at a value of \$300,000 a year for 5 years, a second round of clinics dispensing the H1N1 vaccine to about 300 people; and the disinfection of the Golden Hill Center had taken place and on 2-8 the sampling of the water taken as well as other buildings located at Golden Hill and that it would 10-14 days before the results were available. He later noted that there would a Healthy Ulster Summit March 2, At UCCC 8:30-12:20 with 100 + community providers to discuss the report card on the health of UC.

The remainder of the meeting dealt with a power point presentation made by Dr. Hasbrouck concerning the reorganization of the local DOH.

Lee Cane

### **The Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors**

The meeting of the Association of Town Supervisors of Ulster County was convened at 8:30 on January 19, 2010 by President John Valk (Supervisor T/Shawangunk) at the Olympic Diner and adjourned at 9:50. The next meeting will be March 16, as there is none in February.

Initially, officers were elected: John Valk remains as president, Pat McDonough of Rosendale, vice-president and Jeff Moran of Woodstock, secretary.

As this was the first meeting of the year, introductions of new people and certain regular attendees were made by Mr. Valk.

Dare Thompson of the LWVMHR was provided an opportunity to comment on an upcoming League event dealing with the environment and distribute a related flyer to the group.

The association voted to endorse the related concept.

As the scheduled guests were not then present, the group addressed the topic of shared municipal services for the majority of the remainder of the meeting.

The concerns of the Town Highway Superintendents were noted in that their association is thinking about hiring an attorney to review they final draft of the county proposal when it is published to ensure that the towns are protected. It was also noted that the individual town attorneys would still have to review the proposals as well.

It was suggested that there would be an individual agreement, with each town and therefore duplication should be avoided.

Annual dues of \$50 were voted on to continue; and the association elected to pay \$11.50 per year to become members of Pattern for Progress.

It was then announced that there was a second meeting on shared municipal services being held at 10:30 1-19-10 at the County Office Building to which Mr. Valk and Mr. McDonough had been invited to attend. Apparently there are to be a total of four such meetings 10:30-12:30 to which the County Executive wanted T/Supervisors and Highway Superintendents to come to with their questions, concerns, etc. to discuss such as it applied to the shared services proposal.

T/Hardenburg Supervisor Jerry Fairbairn commented on the fact that the town had maintained a contract with the County for about 20 years involving substations, materials, and some personnel. He noted that it was important that everyone understand that the county roads would probably be given the priority of being plowed first, town roads later. Could expect a lot of calls wanting to know when will roads be done. Towns need to know what will county do for them. Recommended nothing more than one year contract. While town feels underpaid, town does make some money. In fact if it saves money this system could be very good. He reminded everyone that this process is not mandatory.

Town did get a lot of help from the county but maybe county could take over bridge work. Also, if personnel is to be let go maybe instead of contracting work out which requires paying prevailing wage, it would save dollars to keep the county group intact.

Certainly the contract with NYC to care for roads to the reservoir should be kept; as that generates good money.

He reminded the group again that the T/Supervisors and T/Highway Superintendents need to reach consensus on everything involved, money, equipment, materials, etc.

Other concerns raised involved costs to perform the work and need to employ same criteria to determine cost per mile, costs for equipment, personnel, materials to do the work, future capital expenses, and what depreciation costs on equipment might be.

Highway Superintendent from T/Plattekill asked the group to think about what would happen after a few years if plan implemented, and it appeared things were not working out. One response was that wouldn't be a contract with town the first year and it was in the county's best interests to work with the towns.

The thought was also expressed that more work should have been done by the county before the material on highways was released.

The representative from the Census Bureau having arrived, Ms Leanday was given the opportunity to present her material and report to the group. Apparently there are certain areas in the county, Warwasing, Denning, Hardenburgh, Olive, Shandaken and Woodstock that are considered to be more rural than the other areas. Therefore, the census survey will be delivered by hand to the person's doorstep. The Bureau is looking for people to take jobs in those areas for about 6-8 weeks employment; \$11-\$18 per hour depending upon the position, plus mileage. About 400 applicants from these areas will be needed; need to take a test. Employment will start when person is called; receives 4 full days of paid training and mileage.

Results of the census will be released in stages starting in 2011.

Since additional surveys will be made available in case some did not get delivered, the group suggested that the town halls in the areas involved would be the best place where people having a problem would go for assistance. There will be people provided by the Bureau to oversee the boxes of surveys and be available to provide help....paid to do this....can be shared with other areas.

Press material will be sent to Mr. Valk to distribute to the members.

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**NOTE: To learn a little about the census process and see what questions they're asking, go to [2010.census.gov/2010census/index.php](http://2010.census.gov/2010census/index.php)**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thanks to long time member and past president Shirley Kobran who reminded the board that in years past, the County Legislator would proclaim a week in March as League of Women Voters week. Enlisting the help of County Legislator and League of Women Voters member Jeanette Provenzano, the Legislature will declare at its March 16th meeting that the week of March 21-27 will be in honor of our league. Thank you to both Shirley and Jeanette.

Past president Chris Henning will be honored on March 8th by the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce. This is their fifth annual Shaker Awards and recognizes forty individuals under 40 years old (40 under 40). Chris is being honored for her significant effort and contribution at Dutchess ARC.

League member Lee Cane has received an invitation from Public Health Director, Dr. La Mar Hasbrouck, to attend the Healthy Ulster Summit sponsored by the Ulster County Department of Health on March 2nd. As a member of our Observer Corp, Lee has been reporting on meetings of the Board of Health. Part of the mission of the Corp is to "be noticed" and Lee has done a fine job in that respect along with her meticulous summaries. Of course, if you know Lee, you would expect nothing less!

**WANTED:** We're hoping to invite all of the League's "Charter Members" to our 50th Anniversary celebration. While we have a number of names, if you think of someone who might not have gotten an "Save the Date" card, let us know. Contact Irene McInnis [lemcinnis@aol.com](mailto:lemcinnis@aol.com) or Dare Thompson [darethompson@gmail.com](mailto:darethompson@gmail.com) or any board member.

### *In Memoriam*

*It is with great sadness we mark the passing of our first president and dear friend, Emily Johnson, on February 11, 2010. With grace and humility, Emily was a powerful force in the pursuit of our common goals. Her friendship will be sorely missed.*

Commentator archives, State and National League newsletters are at  
<http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/Newsletters.html>

**MEMBERS:** Need a ride? Want to car-pool?  
Contact Jean McGarry, 336-6622 or [jfmcg@hvc.rr.com](mailto:jfmcg@hvc.rr.com)

Interested in one of our committees? Just show up at a meeting. Our members are always welcome.

I/we wish to become members of the LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region through May 31, 2011

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We enclose: Individual Membership (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Household Membership (\$75) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional gift to the LWV Education Fund (*tax deductible*;) for our use

(Please send a separate check which **MUST** be payable to NYSLWV Ed Fund) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you are upgrading to a Household Membership, please include the name and email address of new members \_\_\_\_\_

Will receive *Commentator* \_\_\_\_\_ online &/or will read it on website or \_\_\_\_\_ Please mail *Commentator*

**(Complete the above form and return it to us with your check at  
PO Box 3564, Kingston, New York 12402)**

League of Women Voters  
Mid-Hudson Region  
PO Box 3564  
Kingston, NY, 12402

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