



COMMENTATOR

MARCH 2009

Commentator, v.I, i.8

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

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CALENDAR		
2009	WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH	
MARCH	Take a look at what LWVUS has to offer at http://www.lwv.org	
18	7:00-9:00	Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNYS lobbyist & Jay Gallagher, chief of Gannett news bureau in Albany, discuss the state budget at the Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie.
20	1:00-2:30	Sunshine Week National Dialogue webcast.
25	5:30	WAC/LWV Program "Helping the Obama Administration Meet its Global Commitment to Girls' and Women's Health and Rights" with Adrienne Germain at Vassar College, Villard Room (Main Building)
APRIL		
6	10:30	Observer Corps at Deisings, North Front Street, Kingston
7	7:15-9:15	Board meeting. Place at Jacki's
8	10:30-12:00	Book Repair at Elizabeth Askue's
18	10:00-12:00	Consensus brunch meeting on Golden Hill at the Town of Esopus Library in Port Ewen
25	10:00-12:00	Consensus meeting on National Popular Vote at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Sawkill Rd, Kingston
MAY		
5	7:15-9:15	Board meeting. Place TBA
15-17		State Convention, Syracuse
19		Statewide School Budget Vote
20	6:00-8:30	Annual Meeting & Pot-Luck Supper at the Town of Esopus Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen
JUNE		
2	7:15-9:15	Board meeting. Place TBA
7	1:00-3:30	Charter honoree luncheon at Wiltwyck Golf Club honoring Cindy Bell, Lee Cane, Tom Kadgen & Renee Sachs

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

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Need a ride? Interested in car pooling?
 Please contact Jean McGarry, 336-6622 or jfmcg@hvc.rr.com

Prez Sez...

Greetings,

Thanks to Lee Cane who was the first to remind me that March is Women's History Month. Soon after, I received a barrage of mailings to remind me of all the significant and outstanding contributions of "the 51 Percent" throughout history. As LWVUS President Mary Wilson so aptly put it, "And what a history we have to celebrate! For nearly nine decades, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective, and truly representative".

The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region represents a microcosm for all there is to celebrate this Women's History Month. Since we were granted a charter in 1959, our local league has been and continues to be a significant force in our community. On so many levels we have promoted citizen awareness that has resulted in citizen action. Environmental concerns, women's health issues, the impact of the criminal justice system, accountable schools, and a new form of government in Ulster County all bear the indelible imprint of the League of Women Voters.

It is appropriate that in this month of recognition and celebration, we remind ourselves of all the good we are able to accomplish when we work together. Let's keep the momentum going.

Jean

PROGRAM NEWS**Meeting & Brunch
February 21st****Consensus on National Popular Vote Compact (NPVC) Moves Forward**

Thanks to a great turn-out at our February meeting on the Electoral College (EC) and the NPVC as a possible solution to the problems it presents, and thanks to very valuable help from our excellent speaker, Joel Lefkowitz, Assoc. Prof. of Political Science at SUNY New Paltz. We decided to try to reach consensus on whether the LWV should support the NPVC. The League already has a position opposing the EC.

The consensus meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 10 - noon, at the Unitarian Church on Sawkill Rd in Kingston.

If you didn't get background materials at the February meeting, you can get them from the LWVUS website at <http://www.lwv.org/> and go to the Taskforces & Studies section of the For Members page. Or contact Dare Thompson at darethompson@gmail.com or (845) 236-3074.

**Fiscal Crisis Meets
Political Turmoil
March 18th**

Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, on Wed., March 18, 7 pm. The meeting is free and open to all.

Are the famously "dysfunctional" legislature and the "accidental" governor any better positioned this year to meet the extraordinary challenges the state currently faces as it writes the 2009-10 budget?

Jay Gallagher, chief of the Gannett News Service's Albany bureau, and Barbara Bartoletti, legislative director of the LWV of New York State, have both followed NY politics for twenty-plus years, so they are the perfect duo to explain what's happening with the STATE BUDGET as the April 1st deadline for passage draws near - and what you might still be able to do about it. There will be time for audience questions.

Special thanks to our media sponsor, the Poughkeepsie Journal.

DIRECTIONS:

Heading east on Church St. (Rt 44/55) from the Mid-Hudson Bridge, continue about 5 blocks and turn RIGHT onto S. Clinton which ends at Hooker. Turn LEFT onto Hooker and continue about 10 blocks. Immediately after the Meeting House (on the right) turn RIGHT onto Whittier Blvd to reach its parking lot.

FURTHER INFO: Dare Thompson at 236-3074 or (cell) 797-5045 or Jean McGarry, 336 6622.

Sunshine Week 2009

On Friday, March 20 from 1- 2:30 PM (ET), the League of Women Voters Education Fund will co-host the 4th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue to discuss opportunities for citizens to use government information to make a difference in their communities. Entitled "Opening Doors: Finding the Keys to Open Government", the event will be held in Washington DC and available via webcast. For more information visit www.openthegovernment.org.

**Helping the Obama
Administration Meet its
Global Commitment to
Girls' and Women's
Health and Rights
March 25th**

The League is pleased to be a co-sponsor of this timely and critical issue featuring a world renowned speaker. We're sure you'll find this one of the more enlightening presentations we've had.

Since her pioneering work for women's equality in the 1970s and 80s with the Ford Foundation, Adrienne Germain has reshaped global policy on women's health and human rights. A skilled strategist and negotiator on U.S. government delegations to world conferences on population, women, and development from 1993 to 2000, she helped revolutionize the way the world views population policy and funding by making women's sexual and reproductive rights and health central. Under Ms. Germain's leadership, the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) has created international policy innovations, led global advocacy for sexual and reproductive rights and health, and helped build local organizations in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The program's primary sponsored is the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley along with several Vassar College departments and programs, community public interest groups and a variety of civic organizations. For more information and updates, check the WAC website Current Events calendar at www.hvworldaffairsCouncil.org

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations or information on accessibility should contact the Vassar College Campus Activities Office, 845 437-5370

**Golden Hill Consensus
Meeting
April 18th**

On April 18, 2009 The Mid Hudson League of Women Voters will present a program in order to come to consensus on the future of the Golden Hill Health Related Facility in Ulster County. It will include an overview of our study and the pros and cons of the consensus questions will be discussed. We will determine the broad areas of agreement and disagreement that emerge among members. This will enable the Mid-Hudson LWV to initiate, support or oppose a variety of legislation. We hope that the following questions enable us to take a position on this very important subject.

1. Under the current fiscal climate, is maintaining and or renovating the Health Related Facility a feasible option?
2. What would be the financial impact of closing the facility?
3. What is the social impact of closing the facility?
4. What options are available to the County to lessen the impact on patients, families and employees if the HRF were closed?

Please check the online calendar for updates and further details.

Lee Cane/Jacki Moriarty co-chairs

**OBSERVER
CORPS REPORTS**

Did you know that many government public meetings are on the internet with live streaming video coverage? The Ulster County Legislature has been "webcast" live for a few months. Go to www.totalwebcasting.com/live/ulster on meeting nights for live video and at any other time for archived footage.

And check out www.nysegov.com/webcast.cfm for webcasts of New York State meetings and www.statewidemediaproject.org for other local meetings.

**Ulster County
Legislature Meeting**

Ulster County Legislature, Regular Meeting, March 11, 2009

The meeting began with the presentation of a Certificate of Accreditation confirming the accreditation to the Ulster County Jail. It is conferred by the New York Sheriff's Association as a testimony that compliance of 166 standards has been met. Only 19 counties out of 62 in the state have met this requirement.

Minority leader Glenn Noonan and Majority Leader Brian Cahill both addressed the Legislative chamber. While both strongly urged that partisan politics should be set aside for the good of the county, the two legislators had very different views how this should best be accomplished. Legislator Noonan was particularly concerned with the expansion of county personnel.

The meeting was called into Executive Session to provide an update on the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center litigation. Upon returning to the open meeting, the Legislature voted 31-0 to accept a settlement to the Federal lawsuit for an award of \$1,730,00. Immediately after, the Legislature voted 31-0 to use this settlement money to reduce the debt on the law enforcement center.

There was much discussion over creating a full-time fleet manager position for

**Ulster County
Economic
Development,
Housing, Planning &
Transit Committee**

Ulster County. Jeanette Provenzano (D) and Frank Felicelo (R) had co-chaired the committee to study the feasibility of adding this position. Minority Leader Noonan said that only the County Executive has the authority to create a new position. Legislator Provenzano replied that only the Legislature controls the money to do this, not the County Executive. While Felicelo supported the need for the position, he objected to hiring from the outside and stated there were qualified individuals already employed by the county that could serve as fleet manager. The resolution passed 27-3.

The full agenda and text of the offered resolutions (without amendments adopted at the meeting) can be found at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/index.html>

Go to <http://www.totalwebcasting.com/live/ulster/> to view archive video of legislative meetings

Jean and Jim McGarry

Selected Notes of Feb. 25, 2009, Meeting:

Ulster County Development Corporation: UCDC is working with the Ulster County Executive on a performance-based contract.

Lydia Reidy, Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director, announced that Cornell Extension and the Farmland Preservation Board now report to the committee.

Legislator Gary Bischoff proposed the ED, H, P & T Committee have a brainstorming session. For a few minutes, the committee did so and the discussion went toward policies and initiatives.

Selected Notes of Feb. 2, 2009, Meeting:

Hector Rodriguez, Chairman, acknowledged the LWV observer and legislator Wayne Harris introduced him to the committee. The observer was not asked to speak.

There was some discussion of shared services within the county.

Resolution: re Specific Solar Consortium (TSEC) Related Services contract with the Ulster County Development Corporation (UCDC). Legislator Gary Bischoff questioned why the Ulster County Executive does not sign the contract rather than the UCL Chairman as it is a contract. The item is being referred to the county attorney (*). There was some discussion about the justification of the funding of TSEC. The committee chairman, Hector Rodriguez, sought to justify the funding, but some on the committee questioned the funding.

There was some discussion of the US Economic Stimulus package and county "shovel-ready" sites.

Hector Rodriguez, Chairman, initiated a discussion on the UCDC performance-based contract that is in discussion with the Ulster County Executive. What are the roles and responsibilities of the Economic Development Director? There were several comments and questions in the committee about the accountability, effectiveness and justification of the funds spent and being considered for UCDC. Benchmarks to be announced. Chairman Rodriguez said economic development wholly underfunded. Gary Bischoff recommends a subcommittee to focus on the UCDC.

Vic Melville

**Ulster County
Environmental
Committee**

Selected Notes of Feb. 18, 2009, Meeting:

Committee Chairman Brian Shapiro recognized the LWV Observer and asked for comment at the end of the meeting.

Discussion: Proposed Local Law Establishing Plastic Bag Fee in Ulster County.

After discussion, a special meeting was set for Mar. 3, 2009, for invited participants. Chairman Shapiro wants wider awareness and support for the proposed law.

Dept. of the Environment: Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, reported on storm water initiatives of outreach to towns regarding MS-4, permit requirements, with a session planned for April 2009. She reported on significant open space and energy policy topics.

Resource Recovery Agency: There was significant input and discussion on subjects related to recycling finances and capital improvements.

Vic Melville

**Republican Caucuses
March 4th & 11th**

The League Observer Corps Lives! Sparked by a core committee, headed by Margaret Sellers, it has met several times with the purpose of laying out local governmental meetings to cover, and a code with suggestions for newcomers. I cover county minority party caucus meetings twice each month. I have attended meetings on March 4 and 11 at the County Office Building. The legislators, who are officially "part time" seem to spend quite a bit of time at committee meetings and in caucus.

The Republican caucus is presided over by Legislator Glenn Noonan of Gardiner or, in his absence, Legislator Susan Cummings of Ellenville. Both operate in a serious but informal manner to steer their members through an agenda of resolutions as to their "ayes" and "nays" on each item. Notable is that the discussions provoke some dissenting opinions and that there is evidence the legislators are cognizant of their newly defined role under the Charter. (A reference was made to the fact that at least one item was noted as properly placed with the County Executive.) Their legal counsel, Nick Pascale was present at both meetings. Since there were at least 20 resolutions presented, each meeting ran about an hour.

I want to thank Minority Leader, Glenn Noonan and Minority Whip, Susan Cummings, as well as the other members of the caucus for making me feel welcome and particularly Legislator Ken Ronk who was very helpful in acclimating me.

Come learn with me! Renee Sachs

**Ulster County Human
Services Committee
2/19/09**

The Legislative Health Services Committee was convened by Chairman Rob Parete at 6:30 PM and adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Chairman Parete appointed Legislator Roberti as Deputy Chair. Members of the committee were present except for Legislators Briggs and Stoeckler.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to matters regarding UC Mental Health. Marshall Beckman, Deputy County Executive (DCE) and Dr. Ed Brown, Director of UCHM reported.

DEC Beckman reported that a committee consisting of Rob Parete, Steve Kelley, Chairman and CEO of Ellenville Community Hospital, Brenda Bartholomew, County Personnel Officer and himself were engaged in handling the selection of a new Public Health Director. Every effort is being made to make this a collaborative effort.

Rather than a Commissioner, involving an appointment to a term of office, the person selected will be a Director, appointed by and to serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. In either case the person selected must be a medical doctor. A few applications have been received. Prospective applicants are not limited to UC residents. Salary considerations would be what the present Public Health Director receives.

The three resolutions that were presented were each passed:

-accepting state aid of \$4,432 from NYS Office of Mental Health for Gateway Community Industries for the Supported Employment program. No matching UC dollars involved;

-accepting state aid of \$4,250 from NYS OASAS for Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. No matching UC dollars involved;

Dr. Brown explained to the committee about some of the financial problems that UCMH will be faced with in the next year or two. This situation will occur as a result of the financial problems facing the state and the problems that will be created as a result of changes in the Medicaid program, i.e., the rate of reimbursement. It is expected that some of the problem will occur January 1, 2010 when the new system of reimbursement will begin.

DEC Beckman explained further that given the financial problems that the state is facing that it will create the type of negative situation that will result in UC having to set priorities as to what it can do, how much staff it can afford, how many cases it can handle, etc. He suggested that a "lot of seriously ill mental health patients" will be using the emergency rooms.

Dr. Brown advised that UCMH is moving ahead with its electronic billing procedure and the renovation to support the process. Federal money is available to cover the cost of the soft ware. The electronic billing process will be done first. The current system will not be supported at the point that the changes take place Jan. 1. 2010. Electronic medical record keeping is also on the schedule, but only after the billing procedure is done... need to do this or face losing revenues...billing must be done

**Ulster County Human
Development
Committee
2/23/09**

within 60 days of service.

-the third resolution passed referred to a contract to be executed to accept funding to implement a program to celebrate the Quadricentennial and also to prevent obesity in children; UC would need to put up matching funds.

A final piece of business dealt with the matter of restaurant chains and most major fast food entities being required to post caloric information on menus. It was noted that the Federal court rejected the appeal from the NYS Restaurant Association that the latter be required to display caloric information on their menus.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Legislative Human Services Committee was convened at 4:45 by Chairman Gregorius and adjourned at 6:17. All members of the committee were present.

Initially, the committee discussed the creation of the position of Fleet Manager. The person serving as Fleet Maintenance Coordinator, working out of the Purchasing Department, has been responsible for an extensive array of duties. However, there are supervisory aspects and interaction with each department head that need to be handled as well. These last two aspects of the work as well as oversight of all the county vehicles (about 400) would be the Fleet Manager's responsibility.

Generally, the committee seemed to see the need for the two positions given the responsibilities that are envisioned for each.

The committee passed a motion to create this Fleet Manager position.

The next resolution to be passed was to reclassify a position held by a member of the sheriff's staff who is retiring. This will permit the creation of an additional assistant jail warden. There is a need to have this additional position due to an increase in jail inmates, primarily due to the increase in boarded inmates.

The final resolution to be passed will enable the county to hire additional Social Welfare Examiners (SWEs) due to the 26% increase in applicants at DSS.

The remainder of the meeting dealt with an update on the Salient Computer program being used by DSS and an update on the A-87 Report from Paul Hewitt.

Deputy Beckman indicated he and Commissioner Rodriguez will be working on a productivity chart to determine the number of cases a Medicaid SWE should be handling; as previously noted the present case load is 850 per Medicaid SWE.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Legislative Ways and
Means Committee
3/11/09**

The Legislative Ways and Means Committee was convened at 4:50 by Chairman Lomita and later adjourned at 5:30. All members of the committee were present except for Legislator Cummings.

Three resolutions were presented; 2 were passed and one was to be finalized at the regular meeting of the County Legislature later in the evening.

As announced at the previous meeting of the committee, Art Smith, Commissioner of the Budget was in attendance to present the first quarterly report on the state of the county's financial affairs.

He indicated that, while the state budget had not yet been passed, it is expected that there will be cuts in the revenues for DSS, the county nursing home, and Medicaid reimbursements.

With respects to the county nursing home there are fiscal concerns due to a delay in receiving funds from the rebasing of costs from 1983 to 2002, the trend factor will be eliminated, and the institutional pricing status for which there are no real specifics.

Additionally there are dollars expected to be received through Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

Money for transportation upgrades is expected under the Federal stimulus package (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act).

There is a possibility that the county may have to again contribute to the state retirement system due to the losses experienced by the state pension fund. This apparently would not occur until after 2010.

Receipts for the county sales tax (8%) for 2008 were better than what was originally budgeted for. Note: the state receives 4% of the receipts. However, the first quarter for 2009 is down, which is not unusual.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**City of Kingston
Finance Committee
2/24/09:**

Notes on Kingston City Finance Committee 2/24/09:

Alderman Landi served as Chair

Comptroller John Tuey reported on the 2009 budget and expressed concerns about declining revenues. City programs are being run as fiscally responsible as possible, are subject to increased scrutiny of revenues and expenditures with efforts to limit spending to essentials. Looking for innovative ways to reduce costs continues. The City is hopeful a Federal stimulus package will help.

Police Chief Gerald Keller and Deputy Chief Wallace were present. Up to 28 employees might qualify if a retirement "buy out" is adopted..

They addressed a variety of questions regarding the URGENT program, including the particular areas of investigation the program is responsible for.

Chief Keller also expressed hope that President Obama's stimulus package would help out in regard to the KPDs (having to cut back staff, etc.) fiscal struggles.

Kingston Area Public Access (KAPA / Channel 23) Commissioner, B. Smith spoke about the stations television's financing and in particular the Time Warner franchise fee and a pending request for \$14,800 from the City of Kingston.

Alderman Landi stated that since all City of Kingston revenues are down, he did not think the City would be able to "help" out in regard to KAPA.

Committee members suggested other funding sources, including an application for a Community Block Grant.

Alderman Madsen suggested a surcharge about 10 cents a month - specifically for KAPA - be added to the franchise fee

He also noted that other Public Access stations generally receive a portion of Time Warner franchise fees for their operating expenses.

-Nancy Smith

**City of Kingston
Common Council
3/3/2009**

Kingston City Council Meeting Notes 3/3/2009

Alderman-at-Large / K.C. Council President, J. Noble was presided. All K.C. Alderman were present except Al Teetsel and Bill Reynolds

Open Speaking Session: A representative of "Empire Merchants North LLC" spoke on its and their relocation (with City of Kingston funding assistance) "into the Green County Empire Zone." The council adopted Resolution #14 of 2009 recommending of the shift.

The council also adopted or addressed:

Resolution #26 of 2009" - authorizing lease agreements between the City of Kingston, Hudson River Cruises and the Hudson River Maritime Museum

Resolutions transfers in the 2008 budget totaling \$433,939.68 to cover year end shortages and/or "correct year end bookkeeping.

Additional matters considered included updating flow monitoring equipment costs; engineering costs related to the Kingston Pedestrian Waterfront Walkway; modifications to the 2008 Recreation Department's budget in the amount of \$129,902.31 to correct year-end bookkeeping; supporting the opportunity for the City of Kingston to participate in Hudsonia's Ten Month Biodiversity Program; various traffic control matters; continuation of the NYS Empire Zone Program.

A number of matters on the agenda were put over to a second meeting on 3/19.

-Nancy Smith

Book Repair

Elizabeth Askue and her committee have been repairing children's books "for years", according to Elizabeth, after it came to her attention that many children in Ulster County had no books to enjoy. She put out the call for children's books and ever since her back porch has been filled with books her committee meticulously repairs, cleans and distributes throughout the county. I asked Elizabeth if she knew how many books they have distributed to date. "Oh yes, we keep a tally. About 11,000." Currently they are down to about 17 cartons from 21 cartons. Have a couple hours once a month? Call Elizabeth to help out, 338-1667. Much thanks and appreciation to Elizabeth and her committee for all the joy they have given children in our community for so many years. - Jean McGarry



March is Women's History Month

With thanks to Lee Cane, we present her extensive list of women's achievements

Throughout history women have contributed to all aspects of the human experience. When the Charter of the United Nations was signed in 1945, it was the first international agreement to proclaim that gender equity was a fundamental right.

On the international scene women have contributed much.

- 1804 - Alicia Meynell of England-first woman jockey competing in a 4-mile race in York, England
- 1909 - Selma Ottilia Lovisa Lagerlof-first woman awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1910 - Baroness Raymonde de Laroche-first woman in world to be issued a pilot's license
- 1920-Dame Nellie Melba, Australian opera singer-first women/person heard on radio when she sang at the Marconi works in Chelmsford, England
- 1929 - Margaret Bondfield-first woman to serve in British Cabinet as Minister of Labour
- 1990 - Mary Robinson-first woman elected president of Ireland
- 2002 - Anne Carson, Canadian poet-first woman to win T. S. Eliot Prize, the most distinguished poetry award with a prize of 10,000 pounds
- 2004 - Zaha Hadid, Iraqi born British citizen-first woman to be named Laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Award
- 2006 - Michelle Bachelet - first woman president of Chile
- 2008 - Angela Merkel - first woman elected chancellor of Germany, Nov. 2005; and for the third year in a row ranked as the most powerful woman in the world (Forbes Lists)

Nationally, the following women have earned first stars:

- 1869 - Arabella Mansfield - granted admission to practice law in Iowa, making her the first woman lawyer in United States
- 1870 - Ada H. Kepley - first woman lawyer to graduate from a law school - Union College of Law in Chicago
- 1904 - Amanda Clement - at 16 yrs. old, first woman umpire to officiate a men's baseball game in Iowa for pay
- 1911 - Harriet Quimby - first American woman to earn first US pilot's certificate; and in 1912 - first woman to fly across the English Channel
- 1911 - Helene Britton - first woman owner of a major league team - the St. Louis Cardinals - 1911-1917
- 1925 - Nellie Tayloe Ross - first woman governor of a state, Montana, 1925-27
- 1929 - Janet Gaynor - first woman to receive Best Actress Oscar and first and only actress to receive for a silent film
- 1930s - 1940s - Pauline Frederick - first woman to moderate a Presidential debate, first woman awarded the Paul White Award for Contribution to broadcast journalism, first woman to receive Peabody and DuPont Awards for news broadcasting and first woman elected president of the UN Correspondents Assoc
- 1953 - Jacqueline Cochrane - first woman to break the sound barrier
- 1957 - Barbara Walters - first woman newscaster on network TV news program
- 1963 - Lucille Ball - first woman to own a film studio
- 1963 - Katharine Graham - first woman to head a Fortune 500 company, which in this instance was The Washington Post
- 1964 - Jerrie Mock - first woman to fly around the world

- 1970 - Diane Crump - first woman jockey to ride in the Kentucky Derby
- 1972 - Billie Jean King - first woman to earn \$100,000 in a year (tennis champion) and to be named Sportswoman of the Year by Sport's Illustrated magazine
- 1985 - Libby Riddles - first woman to win the Aditirod Sled Dog - Race in Alaska
- 1993 - Sheila Windnall - first woman secretary of branch of US military - head of the US Air Force
- 2008 - Danica Patrick - first woman to win an IndyCar race - Japan 300 in Motegi, Japan
- 2008 - November, 30 - Specialist Monica Brown - an 18 year old army medic- first woman to receive the Silver Star, in Afghanistan
- 2009, February-Dr. Nancy Zimpher - first woman chancellor of NYS SUNY System
- 2009-Pat Summitt-basketball coach at the University of Tennessee - first person (man or woman) whose teams have achieved 1000 wins

In the Hudson Valley there are many women who should be acknowledged:

- 1971 - Lilian Salapatis - first woman selected as "Irishman of the Year" of the Chamber of Commerce of Ulster County
- 1986 - Evaline Ness - illustrator/author/winner of the Caldecott Medal, 1967 (Sam, Bangs, and Moonshine), married to Untouchable Eliot Ness, died in Kingston, 1986
- 2005 - Nina Postupack - first woman UC County Clerk, initially appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Al Spada; elected in her own right in 2005
- 2008, spring - Betsy Gelardi becomes First woman police chief in Westchester County (Dobbs Ferry), New York
- 2008, spring - Mary Gordon, Formerly of New Paltz, named NY State Author for 2008-2010
- 2008, November - Dr. Judith Ford Baumbauer, a Kingston native, elected the first woman president of the Eastern Orthopedic Association
- 2008 - Anne Sweeney - daughter of Ann and Don Sweeney, graduated from Kingston's Coleman High School - Co-Chair Disney Media Networks and President of the Disney-ABC Television Group; named Most Powerful Woman in Entertainment by the Hollywood Report, one of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business by Fortune Magazine, and one of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes

Get even more by checking Lee's sources of information: National Women's Hall of Fame, National Women's History Project www.nwhp.org (While you're there... test your knowledge of Women's History!); First of All by Joan McCullough, Henry Holt & Co (December 1980); Forbes Lists - <http://www.forbes.com/lists>; Squidoo <http://www.squidoo.com> (search "first woman to"); Famous Firsts by American Women <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womensfirstl.html> and the League of Women Voters of the United States Women's History Month page at http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Women_s_History_Month.

I/we wish to become members of the LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region through May 31, 2009

Name:

Currently Member(s)?:

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

Check here if you prefer NOT to be contacted about local LWV meetings

Will receive *Commentator* online____ or will read it on website____ or Please mail *Commentator* ____

**(Update 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

March 2009
Commentator