



Commentator

October 2009

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.

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CALENDAR

2009		
OCTOBER		
20	7:00pm-9:00pm	Membership Meeting at New Paltz BOCES, 175 Route 32 North, New Paltz, NY 12561 Climate Change (Part 1) How our region is being affected by climate change and how our local and county governments can work more effectively to reduce our collective carbon footprint, adapt to the inevitable changes, and maximize the significant economic development opportunities in clean energy and green infrastructure. <i>Part 2 of this discussion to come in early 2010.</i>
NOVEMBER		
2	7:15-9:15	Board Meeting at Evelyn Ness's, 85 Florence St, Kingston.
3	6:00am-9:00pm	ELECTION DAY <i>Our web site offers tools to locate your polling place and an Ulster County Voters Guide.</i>
9	10:30-noon	Observer Corps meeting at Deisings, 111 North Front St, Kingston
20	7:30am	Meet 'n Greet the Ulster County Legislature Candidates at Deisings, 111 North Front St, Kingston
DECEMBER		
1	7:15-9:15	Board Meeting TBA
13	2:00-400	Holiday Party at Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Dr., Hurley

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

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

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

Moderators wanted - Training provided.

Contact: Jean McGarry (jfmcg@hvc.rr.com)

Prez Sez...

Greetings,

From time to time, I am asked, "What exactly does the League of Women Voters do?" It's the middle of October and allow me to shout loud and clear, "VOTER SERVICE!" The last couple months have been such a busy time for league members. Our on-line Voters' Guide requires Ulster County residents only a couple clicks (<http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/UlsterVG09.html>) on the computer to learn candidates' views and vision for the county. We have moderated numerous debates throughout the county. Additionally, we continue to regularly report on public meetings in the Commentator. This is one area where we could especially use more eyes and ears.

At a recent Observer Corps meeting, we made a "wish list" in the interest of expanding our coverage. Listed below are those public meetings that are currently not being observed. Please give consideration to filling that void by attending a meeting once a month and writing up a short report for the Commentator. Being an Observer Corps member provides a huge service requiring minimal time. We need more reporters. I look forward to hearing from you.

Observer Corps meetings to be covered:

Ulster County Board of Health

Ulster County Arts, Education, Tourism and Community Relations

Town of Ulster, Ulster County

Dutchess County Legislature – all meetings

Jean

PROGRAM NEWS

Meet the Stars!

You are invited to join us for A full-breakfast buffet at Deising's on North Front Street On Friday, November 20th at 7:30 A.M. To meet this year's field of candidates for Ulster County Legislature.

The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region honors their past, present and future commitment to service for Ulster County, and would like to meet them, thank them and share their thoughts about the county, and how we all can work together.

Price of breakfast is \$13.50 to be collected at the door. Show our gratitude by being there.

Meet and Greet!

RSVP to Jacki Moriarty at 331-3418 by November 16th

**ADVOCACY
CORPS REPORT**

The Charter Transition Committee requested funds for the Comptroller's Office to be used for program analysis. This request was granted and money was set aside in the comptroller's budget for this purpose. It is unfortunate that the comptroller had to use this money for legal counsel. This year the League will again advocate that monies be allocated in the Comptroller's office for the purpose of implementing program analysis.

Tom Kadgen

**OBSERVER
CORPS REPORTS****LINKS:**

Take a look at a report card on openness and secrecy in the Federal Government at http://www.openthegovernment.org/otg/SecrecyRC_2009.pdf

Ulster County Legislature webcast - live & archived:

www.totalwebcasting.com/live/ulster

New York State meeting webcasts: www.nysegov.com/webcast.cfm

Other local meetings: 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).

Ulster County Legislature Meeting

<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.

Chairman Donaldson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and began by granting the privilege of the floor to Rebecca Martin of the Kingston Land Trust (<http://kingstonlandtrust.org/>), non-profit organization committed to the protection and preservation of open space, historic sites, wetlands, scenic areas, and forests in the City of Kingston and the surrounding region to include the Town of Ulster and the Town of Kingston. She introduced and announced its "Leave It On The Lawn" initiative and attributed her awareness of the program to our member, Emily Haueser. Their website has quite a few "green ideas" beyond this initiative.

The next item was a presentation of several Pride of the County awards to the Kingston Babe Ruth 13 Year Old All Star Baseball Team for their accomplishments this year in the Eastern NYS baseball competition.

During the Public Comment segment, Al Wegener, Executive Director of the Shawangunk Mountain Scenic Byway

Two county employee labor representatives spoke on the issue of layoffs contemplated in the upcoming budget. Urging the legislators not to support layoffs, they pointed out not only the impact upon individual employees who lose their jobs but the consequential damage to the county economy and government services expenditures. Citing some \$900,000.00 anticipated savings they described the individual property owners' savings as minimal. Before getting on the legislation at hand, legislator Dart committed to doing everything possible to prevent anyone from losing a job; legislator Felicello indicated he would never vote for a budget that cut jobs at this time.

The current and proposed Ulster County Budget scan be found at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/budget.html>

The Consent Agenda was quickly passed without comments. I included confirmation of a variety of appointments including the recently publicized appointment of La Mar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH to the position of Public Health Director.

A public hearing on the proposed county budget will be held on 11/17 at the County Office Building, Kingston, on 11/18 at the Ellenville Government Center, and on 11/19 Ulster BOCES in New Paltz.

The current and proposed Ulster County Budget scan be found at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/budget.html>

Heading up the Non-Consent agenda, a resolution to transfer funds to an account for the payment of a certain jail inmate's substantial medical expenses returned to the floor but only to again be referred back to committee. Evidently the legislative and executive branch continues to grapple with ways to minimize cost to the County.

In addition to the substantial sums unanimously authorized under the Consent Agenda, a \$1,000,000.00 bond for DPW capital equipment was authorized 26-2.

Jean and Jim McGarry

Republican Caucus

Chairman Noonan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. After a brief acknowledgment of the Consent Agenda and the observation that some additional items would be moved from the Non-Consent Agenda the caucus members generally chatted and swapped "war stories" from prior legislative sessions and election campaigns. One item - Legislator Attendance Records - were perused, compared and commented upon - especially regarding those not in attendance. As soon as this record was made available to us it will be posted on our website. A notice will be e-mailed to members.

Jim McGarry

Ulster County Economic Development, Housing, Planning & Transit Committee

Date: 9/23/09 Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Finish Time: About 8:15 p.m.

Selected Notes:

Hector Rodriguez, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Mr. Rodriguez introduced Peter Loughran, legislator and committee member, who presented a proposed resolution: Encouraging and Supporting the Construction of Belleayre Resort to be Managed by Crossroads Ventures, LLC - Supporting Economic Development and the Tourism Industry in Ulster County. Mr. Loughran spoke in favor of the venture emphasizing economic development, while recognizing job losses in the

county, and the potential of tax income of a \$400 million project, while balancing the environment and jobs. He recommended contacting Albany (NYS) to gain support the initiative.

Donald Gregorius, legislator representing District No. 2, discussed the resolution with the committee, particularly engaging Mr. Loughran, and others in attendance. Mr. Gregorius commented the project is not necessarily a good or bad project. He had a statement of concern: why now a resolution to support the full project (why this project, why now, what is the project?) and underplay Home Rule while the Environmental Impact Statement is not complete. There was an extended give-and-take discourse between Mr. Loughran and Mr. Gregorius about the scope and status of the "project" and the "planning process" in which Mr. Gregorius emphasized NY state and the people he represents would need to show approval for him to support this particular project. There was disagreement between them regarding some communications.

Mr. Rodriguez pushed to resolve the issue of the resolution. Catherine Terrizzi, legislator and committee member, asked: can the project be presented to the committee or the legislature? There was more discussion of what the current project is (unclear) and the status of various environmental impact statements (incomplete), and what is the Agreement in Principle (AIP). Lance Matteson, President of UCDC, said the AIP can take place and suggested a presentation of the AIP. Mr. Rodriguez suggested holding off on the resolution. Mary Sheeley, legislator and committee member, supported holding off. Mr. Loughran agreed to hold off for a month with the intention of a presentation to the full legislature. The chairman of the legislature will decide the scope and focus of the presentation to the full legislature.

Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning, addressed the committee on behalf of Lance Matteson, President of UCDC. Mr. Doyle presented the Economic Development Update, dated September 23, 2009. Highlights of the Attractions Prospects section: Finalization of the Amthor International project, Continued active support of Kedem Winery, Directly supporting 10 other recruitment prospect firms, Participating in site tours and/or marketing meetings for 4 solar companies, Responding to inquires about the China market, Participation in marketing and business development meetings, and other marketing activities. Highlights of the Retention/Expansion Actions section, including: Formalizing, under its Business Development Committee, a systematic retention effort, Directly supporting the Nevele Hotel Sale process and legal efforts (legislator Mary Sheeley briefed the committee on the difficulties of the halted auction and the conditions of the site's buildings), Continuing active support of the Gillette Creamery project, Actively supporting 4 other retention/expansion firms, Reviewing 2 Ulster County Revolving Loan Fund applications, Decisions from the State on Restore New York grants to UC (none of the three applications were successful). There has been good news from TechCity about its new plan and the Winston Farm project is proceeding. The Balanced Growth Committee – Streamlining, Paul Hakim, chairman, is active.

Planning department: A proposed resolution concerning Farm Labor Housing was addressed. Various projects and funds related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (stimulus), as well as transportation, trails, housing and Open Space were discussed.

Tourism: The Ulster County Alive website will show the Walkway Over the Hudson. There is an active Hudson Valley tourism website and campaign project.

UCAT: FTA presentation (went well), the Automatic Vehicle Locator System (AVLS) grant, a fuel storage tank and routing system projects were discussed. The UCAT staff is doing well. The Bus Rodeo is this weekend. Interviews are being held for a full time director of UCAT.

Dennis Doyle later addressed the committee on three issues: The storm water grant received compliments, a deadline of September 25, 2009, looms for the National Flood Insurance Program, and a Housing Awareness Campaign with a proposed resolution is due by November 5, 2009.

Lydia "Lee" Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Co-Op Extension, presented the Fall 2009 Legislative Update highlighting the sections on Achievements, activities In Progress and What's Next. Other topics of discussion were: the farm Business Tour, housing and energy use, a slaughter operation in Liberty, late blight of potatoes and tomatoes, living healthy topics, National 4-H Week, USDA Food Stamps, a behavior

**Ulster County Board
of Health**

(nutrition) change program, financial and energy management, a product dating issue in Ellenville, and an UC Tourism & CCE Facebook page.

Vic Melville

The UC Board of Health was called to order by County Attorney Havranek at 7:37 on 9-14-09 and adjourned at 8:52. Next meeting is 10-19 as 10-12 is a holiday.

The members of the Board who were present: Dr. Stellato, Dr. Delma, David Clegg, Joan Authenrieth, and Marion Ostrander. Those absent Dr. Tack and Dr. McFadden. Acting Director of DOH Veytia, Kevin DuMond, Acting Director of Environmental Sanitation, and Deputy County Executive Beckman were also in attendance.

A resolution was passed making Mrs. Havranek Acting Chairman. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Mrs. Havranek then directed the group to the Sanitation Code to learn what it had to do to elect its officers. Dr. Stellato was then voted in as president. It was decided that a vice-president and secretary would be elected at the next meeting. Mrs. Havranek advised the group that the Sanitation Code provides the laws and rules that the Board must follow in conducting its business. She also meets with the DOH weekly on Tuesday to discuss such with the idea of redoing; which will take about a year.

David Clegg was selected to be the Board member who signs and issues subpoenas. The need for selecting a hearing officer was discussed. Following relevant commentary it was determined that Mrs. Havranek will contact the Bar Association for suggestions for hearing officers; David Clegg will act as the Board's liaison in this matter.

The Menu Labeling Local Law #1 was then reviewed by AD Veytia. She noted that there are 67 food chain outlets in UC (some like McDonald's are duplicates). The various chains involved were all advised in writing about the coming changes which become effective Oct. 5. This also included a list of Q & A most frequently asked. At Mrs. Havranek's recommendation the Board affirmed the Q & A list. At the next meeting the Board will go over the Law and review what Westchester and NYC have as this process is new in those areas as well.

AD Veytia reviewed the fees for seasonal flu and pneumonia vaccines. The Board decided to maintain the fee schedule use in 2008: \$20 for seasonal flu vaccine and \$35 for pneumonia. The H1N1 vaccine is different. It is free-coming from the federal government-to the CDC to the states and then to the counties. There will be administrative fees for the doctors to do these shots.

The UC DOH has had more than one challenge to deal with since the change in administration revealed a variety of problems which have been corrected: 79 food establishments have been permitted, 25 vending and pushcart operations and 56 camps were all permitted; in service training en electronic instruction have been acquired; Home Health Services, clinical records reviews, staff training have been accomplished and its local plan has been accepted by NYS DOH; about 99.9% in compliance. Other challenges facing the DOH: how to maintain services to the community without disruption if DOH staff is reduced due to illness, filling staff openings: RNs, Nursing Supervisors, Educators; staying within the scope of practice, still deliver service to the community and not jeopardize its licensure by taking on more than it can do. Added to that, as of August, 2009 all Health Services providers must receive the seasonal flu shot and it is a condition of employment for those UC employees who are so employed. If H1N1 is to be covered, the law would have to be changed.

UCDOH has a local pandemic flu plan and a core group which meets weekly to plan for the H1N1 flu: working on getting partners within the county to help when dispensing the vaccine, i.e., sheriff, emergency management, IS; which to avoid any problems which could arise given the need to provide for the priority groups first; communicating with health care providers to determine who in the individual practices will provide the vaccine.

UC CE Hein and his chief of staff, Reiter arrived later in the meeting and spoke briefly.

DCE Beckman noted that there are 3 candidates for the Director position who are now being seen. A special meeting for the Board of Health may be arranged so that the members can meet whoever is selected.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Ulster County

The Legislative Health Services Committee was begun at about 6:40 by Chairman

Legislative Health Services Committee

Parete on 9-17-09. There was no quorum to start with due to absences. However, Chairman Parete allowed for the presentations by Director Cross of Golden Hill Health Care Center and AD Veytia of the UC Department of Health to make their presentations regarding the up-coming flu season.

Director Cross stated that they have always had seasonal flu. The plan for the health center is to give seasonal flu vaccines to the residents and staff; put up signs throughout the buildings; not to co-mingle staff and residents when ill; notify the DOH when there are cases; do lots of testing. If tests are positive there is another protocol. Engage in educating staff, residents (utilize the resident council), letters to families, hand sanitation and washing. Staff carries Purell in pockets.

AD Veytia reported that for seasonal flu UC DOH is passing out flyers with 3 steps to follow in all county paychecks, billboard advertising, pushing education, presenting risk talks to various groups particularly those who are the target groups. Will have the flu clinics out as early as they receive the vaccine and to be held in various areaswhich is done every year with the seasonal flu.

The challenge is to determine if the DOH will have all the needed seasonal flu vaccine as early as possible. UC has to purchase its supply a year in advance...ordered 1300; has 50%; about 1000-1100 are used. Has been looking at other partners; asking people to go to their primary care providers; people need to make sure that they have such as well. OFA is continuing its work with this. Nursing homes do theirs. Adult assisted living homes are handled by DOH and the high risk groups. Home Health Care Agencies do their employees. The homebound are done by UC DOH.

In August, 2009 the law changed and now hospitals, DOH, HHA, hospices are all required as a condition of employment to have seasonal flu vaccine. State DOH and State Ed all require this as well; the only way an individual can avoid getting the flu vaccine is for medical reasons.

She then went on to report on the H1N1 flu. Commissioner Danes of the NYS DOH has stated that it is an imminent danger to NYS. Emphasized that washing hands is pre-eminent and seeing one's doctor is the other direction.

There are only 5 manufacturers of the H1N1 flu vaccine. The CDC will release to the state and the state then provides to the local county DOH. Hospitals and physicians being asked to go on line and pre-register for what they will need. The target groups are those who are the first receivers. As each target group's needs is met then the DOH will move the vaccine out to other groups of people.

Over age 60 seem to have some immunity. Those 64 and over have had fewer problems when hospitalized. Infants, pregnant women, 19-24 and middle years seem to be the hardest hit.

AD Veytia stated she has talked with DCE Beckman re getting plan to other departments as well as communicating with the public and those who are at risk using all type of available media, Further, hand sanitizing stations in county owned buildings and UCRT will be provided; already has memos of understanding in place with sites where vaccines will be dispensed. Departments like the sheriff, UCRT, Emergency Management, IS are important in terms of parking, safety, and securing the very "important" packages....the vaccines. County people are meeting weekly and have drills as to how things would need to be handled, i.e., planning if 40% of the staff reduced for 2 weeks.

At about 7:10 a quorum having been established, the committee passed both resolutions.

DCE Beckman updated the committee on the selection of the Director of UC DOH screening being done in the County Executive's office, interviewing....will get back to Chairman Parete and also to Dr. Stellato, President of the Board of Health to be involved...Complemented AD Veytia and her staff.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Ulster County Public Works and Capital Projects Committee

The Legislative Public Works and Capital Projects Committee was convened at 5:31 on September 14, 2009 by Chairman Peter Loughran and adjourned at 6:12. Members were present except for Legislator Kevin Roberts.

There were seven resolutions to be considered: the general contents dealt with extensions of leases that the county has had thus enabling the county to be paid; the change in the purchase of trucks to allow the purchase of sanders for the highway

department, etc. These were passed.

The one resolution that created considerable discussion and concern dealt with supporting and encouraging the construction of the Belleayre Resort to be managed by Crossroads Ventures.

Members of the committee expressed views of this item either as a memorializing resolution which some wished to discuss in as much as it would be an item all legislators would eventually have to vote on or that it had nothing to do with the work this committee had over site for and since it was going to be referred to the Economic Development Committee any way, there was no need to address the matter at this time no voting on it. A motion to refer the resolution to that committee appeared at first not to have passed, but there was a change of one vote; item will be refer to Economic Development.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Ulster County Human Development & Personnel Committee

The Legislative Human Development and Personnel Committee was convened at 4:12 on October 7, 2009 by Chairman Gregorius and adjourned at 4:40. Members present except for Legislators Provenzano, Hansut and Terrizzi.

The committee had one resolution to deal with: to support a NYS Assembly Bill to amend the insurance law to disclose claims information to municipalities to determine how their benefits are used. While the committee agreed it was good to support this idea, question was raised as to whether there was a companion Senate bill at this time. There is none but the committee voted to support the change.

Chairman Gregorius reminded the committee that the county budget had been developed by the County Executive and that lay offs had been announced. It is his intent to ask of the County Executive for job descriptions, salaries and responsibilities of all those reporting to the County Executive. He wants to have this information available when Legislature begins its review of the budget. Suggestion made during discussion that sometimes it is not readily noted as to who the people may be and where the money covering their salaries is located in the budget.

Legislator Noonan raised the topic of vacancies that are noted in the budget. It was noted during discussion that there are any number of vacancies listed. The question is how to handle, remove, keep, reduce a certain percentage, etc. Chairman Gregorius asked Legislator Noonan to present at the next committee meeting a possible method for handling these existing vacancies. Legislator Dart suggested that the cause and effect of removing the vacancies should be evaluated before finalizing a decision on what method to use.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Ulster County Legislative Ways and Means Committee

The Legislative Ways and Means Committee was convened by Chairman Lomita at 4:50 October 7, 2009 and adjourned at 5:34. Members present except for Legislator Provenzano. Additionally, Legislator Rodriguez will replace Legislator Zimet as a member of this committee.

There were over 25 resolutions handled by the committee and passed. However, there were some which led to questions and discussion prior to a vote.

The resolution dealing with an inmate at the UC Jail who has needed extensive medical care due to a variety of medical problems led to considerable discussion. The expense that has been incurred far exceeds the \$10,000 cap established by Correctional Medical Services. Since it has been established that the inmate was Medicaid eligible prior to being incarcerated, the county will seek to recover all or a portion of the amount over \$10,000 from Medicaid.

During the discussion the representative from the sheriff's office and the public defender's office indicated that the judge had signed an order that would have the inmate examined by two psychiatrists. If found to be fit for sentencing, which is what has been held up due to the inmate's medical problems, then he will be and then moved to state department of corrections responsibility; if not, then he will be moved to a psychiatric hospital. This determination is not expected to take more than a week to accomplish once the inmate is discharged from the hospital and returned to the UC Jail.

A second concern was mentioned during discussion when the committee dealt with the lease agreement to be entered into for probation offices. It was learned that the lessor had noted that rent checks were coming late. The Comptroller was not able to

Ulster County Legislative Administrative Services Committee

suggest why this was occurring; but would investigate, and report at the next Administrative Services Committee meeting as well as how to resolve this matter.

The October 14, 2009 meeting of this committee was convened by Chairman Lomita at 5:15 and adjourned at 5:21. Members were all present.

The agenda for the committee was short with only two resolutions for it to handle: confirming the County Executive's appointment of La Mar Hasbrouck, M.D., M.P.H. to the position of Public Health Director for UC at an annual salary of \$150,000; and authorizing funds for the H1N1 Virus Immunization Program and Services. Both resolutions were passed. Over \$621,000 are funds from the federal and state governments and over \$200,000 is for advertising, supply and operation of the clinics.

Note: The UC Comptroller advised that the item raised at the previous meeting regarding when rent payments were being received by the landlord of the offices for probation. Comptroller Auerbach indicated he had submitted to the committee a memo, a copy of which was shared with the observer, covering the time frame for these payments. The memo shows that the payments, dating back to January, 2009, were made within 3-28 days, on an average of 14 days.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Legislative Administrative Services Committee was convened at 5:10 by Chairman Provenzano on 9-15-09 and adjourned at 5:30. Members present except for Legislator Terpening.

The committee did not have any resolutions to deal with at the meeting, but it did review several pieces of work and what progress had been made:

The chairman spoke with County Executive Hein and reported that she had been advised by him that he expects that appointments will be made to the positions of Fleet Manager, Transit Authority and Director of the UC Department of Health within about 10 days.

Chairman Provenzano commented on the Financial System: felt that Comptroller Auerbach had used strong language in his report on IS, but was disappointed that there had been no indication whether the county would have the necessary dollars (\$800,000) to train the employees how to use the new system. She suggested that perhaps this money would be found in the County Executive's budget. Apparently an outside consultant will be involved to assist the county Legislature in this matter.

Cell Phone usage: she has spoken to County Executive Hein and there is agreement that there is a need to make a policy change regarding how the phones are used. It was noted that a reason for the county utilizing more than one wireless system was due to some areas not being able to get one provider.

The whistle blower law that was recently adopted has drawn positive responses from outside the county, i.e., Albany County has asked for a copy. The Laws and Rules Committee reviewed the law prior to passage. It was not happy with reporting negative matters to the Personnel Director; thought such should be reported to the Comptroller. Nor did that committee believe failure to report known violations could be grounds for a person being subject to disciplinary action. The result was that the negative matters should continue to be reported to the Personnel Director; but the other phrase (3.3 of draft of the procedure) should be removed...which it was.

The committee had an open discussion period which covered a variety of items including the cost of medical treatment for one inmate at the UC Jail and noting that all the legislators had received a letter from the President of the League of Women Voters regarding the League's intent to continue monitoring the transition to the county form of government. (Note: this letter appeared in the Daily Freeman 9-15-09.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Past President Christine Henning was recently honored by the Dutchess ARC. As the recipient of the Katz Volunteer Award, Chris was recognized for her exemplary service to not only Dutchess ARC, but the community at large. Chris has been with Dutchess ARC since 1992 when she began volunteering with the agency's Elderly Enrichment Program as a student at Marist College. She currently is Intake and Treatment Coordinator.

Past President and longtime member Shirley Kobran will be presented the 2009 Saint

**New Member
Profile –
Anna Brett**

Cabrini Home Gold Medal Human Service Award. For all those who have known or worked with Shirley, she well deserves recognition in her dedication to humanitarian efforts. Shirley will receive her award at a gala luncheon at The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel on Thursday, November 12, beginning at noon.

Congratulations to both Christine and Shirley.

Anna Brett is one of our newer members but she is not new to League activities. She participated in an education panel several years ago sponsored by our local League study committee.

As she described some of the innovative programs she had successfully introduced at the Chambers Elementary School (at which she was then the principal) her whole demeanor reflected the passion she had for her work as well as the children who were her charge.

When we met to do this profile although her retirement is now a little more than a year old she still displayed the same dynamic spirit in her approach to her present activities.

Anna was born in Queens, NY Her family relocated to Franklin Square "across the border" in Nassau County two years later where Anna and her two brothers and two sisters were raised. She attended the local public schools and entered Nassau Community College where a mentor encouraged her to enter the field of education. After her graduation she continued her studies at SUNY Cortland where she majored in health science education. She completed her bachelor's degree and armed with her new credentials sought a teaching position in her field in 1973. Kingston High School was indeed fortunate to acquire her services and with her indomitable enthusiasm she participated in numerous activities in the school community such as class advisor, student faculty shows and faculty council. She also met her future husband who was an art education teacher at Kingston High.

.Anna also found time to attend Russell Sage College which granted her a master's degree in her field in May 1977 and with the encouragement of her health education supervisor she subsequently earned a certificate in supervision and administration at SUNY New Paltz in 1985. At the request of the Superintendent of Schools she served her internship as Dean of Students at Kingston High School. That position further enhanced her skills in the area of discipline. In 1988 she became the Assistant Principal and in 1997 she assumed the position of Principal at Chambers Elementary School which was her job until her retirement in 2008. There she dealt with a much younger age group but undaunted Anna introduced a series of innovative and highly successful programs in this Title 1 (generally underprivileged) school. It was there she donned her celebrated bee costume which is a story she'll tell you if you corner her at the next meeting

Anna has always participated not only in professional organizations but also in the community. Just a sampling of her service on boards would include the American Red Cross, both the YMCA and the YWCA, the then Children's Rehabilitation Center, the Junior League and Delta Kappa Gamma (the women's professional education association). She has received too many awards to list here.

Currently she is on the Board of the Forsyth Nature Center and serves as a lector and Eucharistic minister at St Joseph's Church in Kingston..

She and her husband Kenneth have a daughter, Rebecca Marie who is 23 years old and who at present is substitute teaching at Kingston High School..She is studying for a 40 credit master's degree in literacy and special education.

Anna confesses to a love of travel and having done an extensive amount in Europe she and her husband are now concentrating on the United States.

Welcome to the League, Anna. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

I/we wish to become members of the LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region through May 31, 2010

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)**

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE
MID HUDSON REGION

presents

“COMMUNITY-BASED
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES”

Tuesday, October 20th, 7- 9 PM

ULSTER BOCES in NEW PALTZ
175 State Route 32 North (1 mile north of Main St/Route 299)

How is climate change affecting the Mid Hudson Region and what's ahead?
How can we work with local leaders to mitigate the changes, save tax
dollars, and build our local economy?

SPEAKERS

Mark Lowery

Climate Change Coordinator, NYS DEC

Betsy Blair

Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Melissa Everett

Sustainable Hudson Valley

Julie Noble

Conservation Advisory Council, Kingston

Leo Wiegman

Mayor of Croton-on-Hudson/Energy Specialist

Co-sponsors:

The Nature Conservancy, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Sustainable Hudson Valley