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Announce secretary, Jean McGarry

Announce parliamentarian, Lee Cane

Treasurer's Report by Dorothy Winrow

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Local Program Adoption

Solid Waste (Cindy Lanzetta)

Shared Services for Dutchess (Ellie Charwat)

Shared Services for Ulster (Lee Cane)

Nominating Committee Report by Lee Cane

Irene McInnis, VP, presiding for this report, votes

Election of officers, directors, nominating committee

Nominating Committee questionnaire (Cindy Bell)

Review and Q & A about annual committee reports

Special Guest Speaker Hugh Reynolds

Adjourn

President's Report

What a happy experience it was to look back upon this year! I trust you'll see why when you look at all the other reports.

I'm particularly pleased that we've **grown in membership by 7%**, that no one is leaving the board, and that **two new people are joining the board**, including (drumroll, please!) one from **Dutchess County**. Thanks to all who are returning and to Jolanda and Laura for joining us. Board service is work, yes, but we try to make it interesting and even fun, and we welcome others to consider a stint in their future.

In addition to having Jolanda and other Dutchess members involved in the great work of the Solid Waste Committee described elsewhere, we have an active Dutchess group (led by Ellie Charwat) leading a Shared Services study/action group, and we continue to moderate candidate events there – including a possibly first-ever debate between Family Court candidates.

The candidates for Dutchess County Executive promised to just “stop by” at the end of the family court debate and instead ended up engaging in a rather lengthy and lively informal debate which they both seemed to enjoy, and the ultimate winner (Marc Molinaro) met recently for a lengthy interview with the Shared Services committee. Dutchess is starting its redistricting process so we are following that too.

(See Cindy Bell's Voter Services report for more on our election-related work.)

We are also happy to be working more than usual with the **Saugerties LWV**, first last fall to present the Ulster Reapportionment Commission talking about its work last spring, and this spring with Students Inside Albany.

Meanwhile, of course, we maintain a strong presence at the Ulster County Office Building. I am serving as chair of the board that is negotiating the sale of the **Golden Hill** Health Care Center, and Tom Kadgen and Jim McGarry serve on the **Charter Revision Commission*** with new-ish LWV member Cynthia Lowe as chairperson. And our dedicated Observer Corps and Solid Waste Committee add enormously to the League's visibility and influence.

See why I'm so happy? And I haven't even mentioned the vast amount of material on our website (**www.lwvmidhudson.org**) and in our livelier-than-ever (and fatter) **Commentator**. But I hope you're checking these out for yourself and tracking what we're all up to next. Here comes a whole new year!

**If you're interested in learning more about these revisions and participating in (or watching) our consensus discussion on them, please watch your email and our website for an announcement of an important meeting, probably in June.*

---Dare Thompson, President

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011-12

This past year, we did our usual meetings and gatherings but also experimented with a new format we called “Hot Topics.” We also worked jointly with other groups to sponsor meetings of common interest.

We held our annual luncheon at Wiltwyck Golf club, honoring Eleanor and Martin Charwat, Martin Ruglis, and Al Spada, with Barbara Bartoletti as an added attraction. We had a buy-your-own dinner and film showing of “Iron-Jawed Angels” and our annual post-holiday party. We also held a breakfast to thank all who ran for or retired from county offices in Ulster County.

Hot Topics featured appetizers and cash bar at local restaurants with discussions on “Why does this election matter?”, “What can your school district do about the tax cap?”, “What's going on with the Dutchess county Resource Recovery Agency?” and “End the confusion: answers to your recycling questions.”

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We worked with CRREO on a conference on solid waste management and with SUNY New Paltz on "Zeroing In on New Paltz: How Our Community Can Be a National Model for Waste Reduction." We supported a Saugerties presentation of the Ulster County Reapportionment Commission, and CRREO's conference on the Ulster County Charter.

We held forums for Dutchess County Family Court judge candidates and for Kingston mayoral and District Attorney candidates. We also held an informal "drop-in" by Dutchess county executive candidates.

Ulster County BOCES invited us to breakfast and a tour of their Career and Technical Center, which was not only delicious but informative.

And here we are at our annual meeting!

--- Irene McInnis

Membership and Leadership Development

Our League has continued to play a very active role in the **LWVUS-LWVNYS Membership and Leadership Development Program (MLD)**. This new approach to maximizing the collective wisdom of the whole League membership has been in place in New York for almost a full year now and is growing and evolving. Eight leagues currently participate (including ours) and I'm the coordinator of five state coaches (including myself). More leagues and coaches are expected to come on board this summer.

Each state coach calls the 1 or 2 leagues to whom she's assigned to help them implement the best practices we all know we SHOULD be using but sometimes forget or get "too busy" to use. As all participants quickly realize, this is not rocket science! It's just a personal, consistent way of reinforcing what we already know. **Eileen Olmsted of Pittsburgh, PA, is our state's National Coach**, and once a month she and all state coaches have a conference call to assess how NY's coached leagues are doing. Eileen in turn talks every month with the other National Coaches and LWVUS membership staff to see how to tweak the MLD program to make it even more effective.

Esther Stickley and Dorothy Winrow make up our local MLD team and Maggie Moehringer of Albany County is our State Coach.

Esther comments, "It has been a real learning experience and a bit of fun to be part of the MLD team for our League. The monthly conference calls keep me on my toes and very much aware of our many events. Maggie has an agenda that she presents to us and we respond with information as to the success of the program. In turn she shares suggestions from her experience in areas that will benefit us. Having Dorothy as my team member is a real bonus."

The MLD program is so simple it's hard to grasp at first how important, and slightly revolutionary, this effort is. It keeps all the good League training we've developed over the decades fresh and useful. Ideally, before too long, every league in every state will have a coach and we'll all be more vital than ever at all levels - local, state, and national.

---Dare Thompson

Voter Service Report

Last year was an 'off' year, but we had a busy autumn anyway, moderating six events and sponsoring two- Family Court Judge in Dutchess County and the City of Kingston Mayoral candidate forums. This spring, we moderated four more forums, one in Dutchess and three in Ulster. Thanks go out to Dare Thompson, Ellie Charwat and Lee Ridgway for a job well done! I had the honor of running an event for contentious race for Onteora school board and was gratified to receive the following comment from the organizer. "I am truly grateful for your participation and for creating an opportunity for all the candidates to represent themselves impartially. Even I (who have been following this closely for months),

learned new things last night. ... which made the civil discourse last night so exceptional.” Of course, no event runs without our skilled and trusty timekeepers, Doug Thompson and Chris Henning, our partners who keep us going and make us look good.

I do want to make note of the fact that our primary election process has been expertly streamlined by the Ulster County Board of Elections, with a resulting significant cost savings and efficiency. Well done!

This coming election season is guaranteed to be an exciting one and we are gearing up for an ‘on’ year. We’ll be looking for assistance with Facts for Voters distribution, events and moderating/timekeeping and other activities. Join us!

--Cindy Bell

Ulster County Shared Services Study

The Shared Services Study Committee requests an extension in order to have the time to try and complete the justice court section and handle the planning and economic development portion of the study (as it pertains to shared services).

During the past year the study committee has experienced certain problems that have prevented it from completing the work on the justice courts:

- The committee’s initial efforts with the justice courts involving a survey did not produce the desired results; as a consequence the committee decided to interview the Town Supervisors, justices and justice clerks from a selected group of the towns;
- While the Town Supervisors and the justice clerks have generally been receptive, the justices we have asked have not generally been as receptive to being interviewed;
- Additionally, the loss of some committee personnel and health problems for the co-chair simply delayed doing the work.

To complete the study committee’s charge on shared services, it will need the additional time to accomplish the above and proceed with the planning and economic development section, which is in its preliminary stage.

--- Lee Cane, Chairman Shared Services Study

Dutchess County Shared Services Study

During 2011 – 12 the Committee has explored various ways in which the county and its towns have shared or might share services. They have explored shared purchasing efforts (including health insurance), transportation, services to seniors, fire districts and emergency services, and they are now looking into assessment and the county jail. They have interviewed County Executive Marc Molinaro; Planning and Development Commissioner Kealy Salomon; State Senator Steve Saland; Assemblyman Joel Miller; Acting Commissioner of Services for the Aging, Veterans, Youth Mary Kaye Dolan; Supervisor Jon Wagner of La Grange (head of Dutchess town supervisors/mayors); and others.

The Committee asks for an extension to continue their study. They hope to present a public forum on shared services in the late fall.

--- Eleanor Charwat, Chair

League of Women Voters Solid Waste Committee

Last year, the League voted to adopt a new local program enabling members to participate in a Solid Waste Management Study. The purpose of the group was to study how Dutchess & Ulster Counties could best

manage their solid waste in an efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly way for the next 20 years.

Our group began to educate ourselves and started an online library that could be accessed from the League's website www.midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/Action_Study.html#Trash

We set a regular meeting date (the second Tuesday of each month), time (5:30pm) and place (The Gateway Diner in Highland).

We identified the primary meetings to attend:

- Ulster County Resource Recovery Meetings
- Dutchess County Resource Recovery Meetings
- Ulster County Legislative Committee Meetings & Legislative Meetings

We also realized that public officials and policy makers needed more information about the issues surrounding Solid Waste Management. With the help of the Center for Research, Regional Education & Outreach (CRREO) the League sponsored a program "Solid Waste Management Past & Future" at SUNY New Paltz. This well attended program featured important speakers from all aspects of the Solid Waste spectrum. The forum examined the new State Solid Waste Plan (Beyond Waste), looked at "Promises Made, Lessons Learned" and the financing of integrated solid waste systems.

The Study Group made itself known as a "player" in the Mid-Hudson Solid Waste arena.

The Study Group also promoted a couple of "Hot Topic" meetings. The first, hosted by one of our new members at the Crafted Kup, introduced the new Dutchess County Solid Waste Manager, Lindsay Carille to the public. The second, focusing on Recycling, took place in Highland and featured representatives from Ulster & Dutchess Counties.

Members of our Group have been invited to help facilitate an exciting pilot program funded by the EPA to promote waste reduction in New Paltz. They have had a great response to their kick off meeting for Zero Waste and the networking will continue.

Our Study Group started small and has continued to grow, bringing at least 9 new members to the League. I am humbled by all the knowledge, dedication and gifts that the members bring to the Study. We are a diverse group that enjoys sharing dinner & discussing garbage! Our goal, for this past year, was to educate ourselves & others on the issues. I think we've done a lot to accomplish that. We are now getting into a period of some nitty-gritty decisions. Our Group will focus on having a continued presence at the Solid Waste table, serve as a resource to public officials, and follow the mandate the League has entrusted us with.

---Cindy Lanzetta - Chairman

Membership Committee

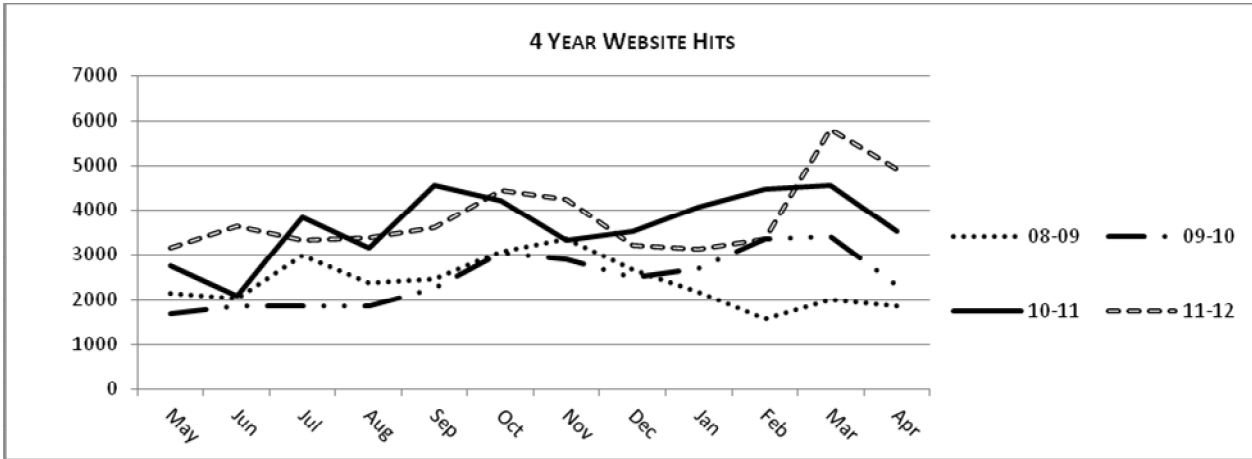
The membership committee has continued to send information to people who request it or are suggested as prospective members by current members. Brochures are distributed at meetings and programs. All members are encouraged to "talk up" the League to friends.

Total membership improved slightly over the past year. The Solid Waste Study brought new members, but health and over-commitment were responsible for the loss of 13 people, all of whom will be missed. The League welcomes its new members and its continuing members, and encourages everyone to be a recruiter for the League.

--- Betty Chin, chairman

Website and Commentator Report

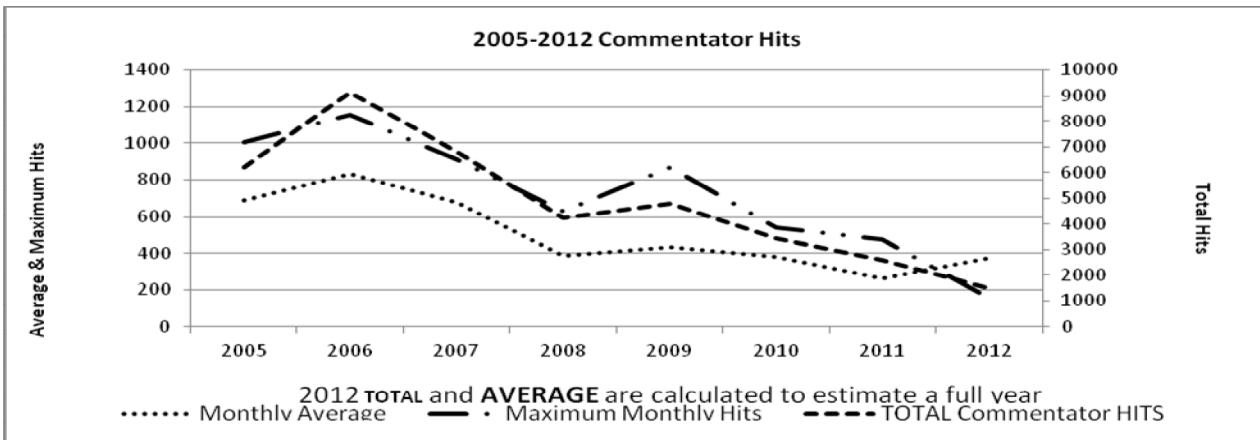
Our website hits have remained relatively steady after showing some growth in 2010. The most noticeable increase recently is due to a greater emphasis on environmental issues, notably our Solid Waste studies. Elections, Calendar, Action & Study and Newsletters pages have consistently received the greatest number of hits.



We continue to publish 10 Commentator issues a year and distribute some 218 as follows:

	Email	Mail	TOTALS	
Members		68	12	80
Gov't: City of Kingston, Ulster Co, Dutchess Co.		80		80
Friends		15		15
Media			17	17
<u>Libraries</u>			<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>
TOTALS		163	55	218

As can be seen below, readership has been steadily declining. One area lacking in the Commentator is “newsy” items. However, our small cadre of contributors are sorely taxed and we could use some submissions from more of our members. Most anything you’d feel would be of interest to the membership is welcome.



----- Jim McGarry, Webmaster

Resource Development Committee

The Resource Development Committee carries out the policies of the LWVMHR Board of Trustees, particularly in the areas of Finance, Public Relations, Membership and Leadership Development. It has also been concerned with details of program planning and how they integrate into the above areas. The Committee meets soon after the Board meeting to begin implementation of any new ideas and directions. Members include: Anne Needham, Public Relations; Esther Stickley and Dorothy Winrow, Leadership Development (tied to the LWVUS effort); Betty Chin, Membership; Dorothy Winrow, Treasurer; Margaret Sellers, Finance and Fundraising; Lee Ridgway, without portfolio; Irene McInnis, Program; and Dare Thompson, President.

Our goal is to make LWV resources more available in the community by increasing membership and increasing public awareness both of the League and of community issues. We strive to maintain a strong financial base for LWVMHR operations. Our discussions range from overall greater perspective to how to integrate operational details to make things work.

Most of the areas listed above have room for more people to be involved. Please join our group, or offer to work with one of the areas.

--- Margaret Sellers

LWVMHR Observer Corps for Ulster County

The Observer Corps has provided coverage of the meetings of the Ulster County Legislature, covering most of the committee meetings and the monthly Legislative session and other committees and Boards.

We publish our notes monthly in the **Commentator**.

Active members of the Observer Corps include: Lee Cane, Tom Kadgen, Shirley Kobran, Jim McGarry, Vic Melville, Lee Ridgway, Margaret Sellers, and Dare Thompson.

Lee Ridgway covers Laws and Rules, Governmental Services, Ways & Means and Public Works. Lee Cane covers the Board of Health, Town Supervisors, Health and Personnel, and the Golden Hill Local Development Corporation. Vic Melville covers Environmental, Energy & Tech, Economic Development, Laws & Rules, Governmental Services and Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services. Margaret Sellers has attended a few Charter Revision sessions and Jim McGarry covers the Legislative programs. **New Observers are welcome!** We meet as a group periodically.

There is currently no coverage for Dutchess County and we are actively looking for a coordinator and observers for Dutchess County.

Observer Highlights:

The Ulster County Legislative downsizing and reorganization mandated by the Charter seems to be going well. Most Observers have noted an increase in organization, preparedness and competency in the Ulster County Legislature this year. Increasingly, they consider policy issues. One Observer reports a status quo. The Golden Hill LDC is finally functioning, with our LWVMHV President, Dare Thompson serving as Chairperson. We recognize that the Resource Recovery Agency and the Solid Waste issue need careful watching, and the Observer Corps is coordinating with the LWVMHR Solid Waste Study group on this issue. The League has three members, Tom Kadgen, Jim McGarry and Chairperson Cynthia Lowe, on the Charter Revision Commission. The Town Supervisors continue in a steadfast fashion.

Observation is important for governmental transparency and public communication. Anyone wanting to research issues can find the reports on the LWVMHR website.

Nominating Committee Report: Responsibilities of the Nominating Committee **“The most powerful committee in the League.”**

The Nominating Committee is made up of two board members and three non-board members. A chairperson is nominated at the first meeting of the Nominating Committee. The chairperson makes sure that all members have the materials they need and sets the agenda, meeting place and time (meetings generally should last 60 minutes, but never longer than 90). The chairperson is responsible for handing off the committee’s binder to the incoming Nominating Committee as soon as possible after the annual meeting is held, marking completion of the task of the current Nominating Committee.

Information required for committee members:

- Current bylaws
- List of current board members, positions and terms
- List of positions that must be filled at the next annual meeting

The LWVUS *Little Green Book* should be available to any committee member who wishes to refer to it. The book contains information on the importance, responsibilities and duties of the Nominating Committee. A copy of the book is contained in this binder as well as online at the LWVUS website. A recording secretary may be appointed to track the progress of the committee and as a reference for the next committee.

The committee reviews positions that need to be considered to be clear about the details each specific position entails so when potential nominees are contacted, they understand what will be required of them. Efforts should be made to ensure diversity of skills, abilities and cultures of the incoming board. Serious thought should be given to succession planning and the future needs of the League.

When all positions are filled, the chairperson presents the completed slate to the next board meeting. This is only a courtesy, since the Nominating Committee works independently of the board and is responsible solely to the membership.

Suggestions from the 2011-2012 committee

- The bylaws state that there should be four general meetings per year. These meetings should be held for the membership to inform them of the status of current projects/studies and for other League business. Most meetings are currently public and with topics appealing to the public, perhaps leaving the membership needing more local League contact.
- A calendar should be made up at the beginning each year highlighting an event or important information to be published in the Commentator or at meetings. The concept is similar to that of a planned media calendar.
- The Commentator should include greetings for those having birthdays during the month.
- There should be an outreach effort for those who may need transportation to events and/or meetings.
- Recommendations for nominees should be requested from membership at large.

Nominations

Officers

President (2012-2014):

Dare Thompson

Secretary (2012-2014):

Jean McGarry

Continuing Officers to 2013

Vice-President – Irene McInnis

Treasurer – Dorothy Winrow

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Directors:

Cindy Bell (2012-2014)
Jolanda Jansen (2012-2013)
Cindy Lanzetta (2012-2014)
Anne Needham (2012-2014)
Margaret Sellers (2012-2014)
Laura Walls (2012-2014)

Continuing Directors to 2013

Betty Chin
James Mahoney
Lee Ridgway

Nominating Committee:

Lee Cane Kathy Germain Cynthia Lowe

Local Program Proposals:

Continuation of Ulster County Shared Services Study
Continuation of Dutchess County Shared Services Study
Continuation of Solid Waste Management Study

Proposed Budget for 2012-2013

	Actual Totals 2010-2011	Actual Totals To 5/31/12	Approved Budget 2011-2012	Proposed Budget 2012-2013
Income				
Individual Dues	3350.00	3025.00	3050.00	3150.00
Household Dues	1350.00	1350.00	1200.00	1200.00
Interest	164.00	89.19	250.00	76.00
Contributions:Gen Fund	1169.00	829.00	1000.00	1000.00
Contributions:Ed Fund	1710.00	1995.00	1800.00	1800.00
Fundraising	2250.00	27.44	5000.00	3000.00
Ads/Sponsorships	0	0	1050.00	500.00
Voter Service	405.00	200.00	350.00	350.00
TOTAL	10398.00	7515.63	13700.00	11076.00
Expenses				
Operations,phone,web	1248.00	1534.75	1180.00	1100.00
Organizational activities	198.00	299.96	452.00	450.00
Educational activities	1465.00	944.84	2500.00	1313.00
Public Programs	222.00	295.001	300.00	400.00
Delegates	315.00	320.00	600.00	600.00
Commentator Printing	570.00	524.57	550.00	600.00
Commentator Mailing	289.00	299.60	350.00	350.00
LWVNYS	1620.00	1449.00	1422.00	1566.00
LWVUS	2688.00	2415.00	2346.00	2697.00
Fundraising	2294.00	44.00	4000.00	2000.00
TOTAL	10909.00	8126.72	13700.00	11076.00
SURPLUS	-511.00	-611.09	0	0

Assets as of May 12,2012

MHV Federal Credit Union Primary Savings	\$3088.37
MHV Federal Credit Union Checking	2094.51
MHV Federal Credit Union 3 Month Certificate	16,434.91
LWVNYS Education Foundation-Grants Management Account	601.83
Total Assets in all accounts as of 5/12/12	\$22,219.62

ANNUAL AUDIT

The financial records and books of LWVMHR were reviewed by a committee of three members on November 10, 2011 and were found to be an accurate reflection of the financial condition of the LWVMHR as of May 31, 2011, and are the results of its operations and cash flows for the fiscal year then ended.

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Motions for the amendment section of the annual meeting:

1. I move that Article IV Board of Directors, Section 2 be amended by deleting the phrase half of the directors shall be elected for two year terms at each annual election, so that it will then read: The officers of the local League shall be elected for a term of two years and the directors shall be elected for a term of two years.
2. I move that Article V Officers, Section 5, be amended by adding “e. and shall report financial status against the budget to the Board.”
3. I move that Article V Officers, Section 6, be amended by deleting the sentence, “Assignments are expected to cover functions such as strategic planning, development, education, advocacy, and communication” and substituting the defined duties of directors a-f; as g repeats what is already there and is not presented for amendment, but the pronoun, her, is deleted. Section 6: Directors will then read:
 - a. Shall ensure that voter registration and education are carried out;
 - b. Shall provide for candidates meetings and debates on requests;
 - c. Shall oversee advocacy by the local League;
 - d. Shall perform strategic planning for the future of the LWVMHR;
 - e. Shall provide for membership development and fund-raising;
 - f. Shall communicate League positions to the media and public; and
 - g. Shall perform any duties assigned by the President and/or Board of Directors
4. I move that Article VI Financial Administration be amended by adding “Section 5 Distribution of Funds on Dissolution: In the event of the dissolution of the LWVMHR, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVMHR shall be paid to the LWV of New York after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed that may at that time be owned or under the control of the LWVMHR shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposes as the board in it absolute discretion may designate.”
5. I move that Article VII Meetings, Section 3, be amended by adding the word general, so that the section will now read: “Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum at all general, annual and consensus meetings of the LWVMHR.”
6. I move that the Article VIII Nominations and Elections, Section 1b, be amended by deleting the phrase “immediately following the elections” and substituting the phrase “at its next meeting.” Section 1b will now read: “... two of whom shall be appointed from the Board of Directors by the Board at its next meeting.”
7. I move that Article VIII Nominations and Elections, Section 1c, be amended by deleting the phrase “immediately following the elections” and substituting the phrase: “within one month following the first Board of Directors meeting in the New Year and shall be a non-Board member of the committee.” Section 1c will now read: “The chairperson if the new nominating committee shall be elected by the new nominating committee within one month following the first Board of Directors meeting in the New Year and shall be a non-Board member of the committee.”
8. I move that Article IX, Section 5, be amended by deleting the word, “proper”.
9. I move that the date of March 1st be changed to February 1st, in Standing Rule No. 1; “Persons joining the League on or after February 1st will be members through the following League year.”