



## 2021 STATE CONVENTION HANDBOOK

May 1-2, 2021

Pre-convention sessions April 26 - 29

via Zoom

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# Agenda

## SATURDAY, MAY 1

- 8:45 AM** Entrance from Waiting Room
- 9:00 AM** Opening Plenary Session  
*Holley Ulbrich, Christe McCoy-Lawrence, Co-presidents, LWVSC*  
How to Use Zoom Controls during Convention  
Adoption of Rules, Adoption of Agenda  
Appointment of Parliamentarian, Secretary, and Credentials Chair  
Credentials Report  
Introduction of LWVSC Board  
Roll Call of Local Leagues
- 9:30 AM** *Marjorie Spruill, Distinguished Professor Emerita, History, USC*  
“One Woman, One Vote: The South and The Nineteenth Amendment”
- 10:20 AM** Proposed Revisions of the LWVSC Bylaws - *Christe McCoy-Lawrence*  
Nominating Committee Report — *Lawson Wetli*  
Treasurer’s Report — *Nancy Williams*  
Proposed Budget for 2021-2023— *Janelle Rivers*  
Proposed Program for Study and Action — *JoAnne Day*
- 10:50 AM** Break
- 11:00 AM** Response to Proposed Program of Study and Action; consideration of non-recommended program submissions — *JoAnne Day*
- 12:15 PM** Legislative Update — *Lynn Teague, LWVSC VP for Issues and Action*
- 12:45 PM** *Sania Irwin, LWVUS Board of Directors and Liaison to LWVSC*  
*Remarks*
- 1:00 PM** Announcements  
Adjourn for the day
- 5:00 PM** Happy Hours *hosted on Zoom by Holley Ulbrich, Christe McCoy-Lawrence, and Nancy Williams*

## SUNDAY, MAY 2

- 8:45 AM** Entrance from Waiting Room
- 9:00 AM** Convention Reconvenes  
Announcements  
Adoption of Revisions of the LWVSC Bylaws  
Final Credentials Report  
Adoption of Program for Study and Action 2021-2023
- 10:00 AM** *Susan Dunn, Legal Director, ACLU*  
“Women Who Would Not be Silenced: 50 years of Courage in SC”
- 11:00 AM** Presentation of Spirit of Democracy Award — *Lynn Teague*  
Presentation of Membership Awards — *Joyce Franklin*
- 11:20 AM** Break
- 11:30 AM** Closing Plenary Session  
Adoption of Budget for 2021-2023  
Election of Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee 2021-23  
Local League suggestions for Incoming Board  
Remarks by Incoming President
- 12:30 PM** Adjournment

# How to Use Zoom Controls for Convention

## **Delegate Information for Using Zoom during Plenary Sessions**

Convention sessions will be via Zoom Webinar, which is slightly different from Zoom Meetings. As a delegate, you are pre-registered and have been sent a link that will admit you to the webinar. Non-delegates will be observers on YouTube Live Streaming.

We recommend participating in the Convention from a desktop or laptop computer. Please close tabs or applications you don't need during the meeting; this can significantly improve performance, especially on older computers.

You will be in a Waiting Room until you are admitted by the host.

If you need more training prior to the meeting, click on the underlined words below and the link will take you to a short video on YouTube that will walk you through the topic.

[How to Sign Up for an Account and Download Zoom](#)

[How to Join a Zoom Meeting](#) (same process for a webinar)

Zoom Help Center Article: [Joining and participating in a Zoom Webinar](#)

When you sign in, you will see icons at the bottom of your screen.

Roll call and voting will use **Raise Hand**.

Click Raise Hand when instructed to. Click the same icon again to lower hand when instructed.

You will not be able to rename yourself the way you do in Zoom Meetings. If your name appears differently than how you registered for Convention (for example, it shows your husband's name, or "Alice's iPad"), please use the Q&A function to let the facilitator know your first and last names. This is important for Roll Call and Voting.

We will be using the **Q&A** feature for questions, motions, and debate (we will not use Chat). If you open the Q&A window, you will be allowed to type in questions for the technical manager (the host) or the Chair or a panelist. At appropriate times, they can either reply to you via text in the Q&A window or answer your question live.

If you are making a motion, please type your name, your League, and your motion into the Q&A window so that we can post it to the screen for all delegates to read.

Technical Managers:

- Saturday – Christina 843-240-4984 or Susan 864-346-1944
- Sunday – Jane 732-259-1935 or Susan 864-346-1944

## Proposed Convention Rules

*Our customary rules have been adapted to the virtual meeting format. These rules will be presented for adoption at the opening plenary and require a two-thirds vote to adopt. To suspend a rule at a later time requires a two-thirds vote.*

1. By approving these Rules, the Convention delegates accept the legitimacy of the electronic meeting and the decisions made by means of video technology.
2. Each delegate shall sign into the webinar software as instructed to access all controls needed for debate and voting and shall maintain Internet access throughout the plenary when present. Each delegate is responsible for her/his own connection to the Internet. Loss or poor quality of Internet access shall not impact the consideration of an issue or the outcome of an action.
3. The presence of a quorum will be established by the online list of participating delegates, the list to be copied for the minutes.
4. In the event of major technical disruption in the plenary that affects quorum, the Chair will have the option to recess, or to fix the time to which to adjourn, for members to again login to reconvene the plenary.
5. The Technical Manager, at the direction of the Chair, shall have the authority to mute the microphones of all participants and to unmute them when they are recognized by the Chair.
6. Only designated delegates of the local Leagues and members of the State Board of Directors may vote. All LWVSC members are welcome as observers, joining as instructed, but only delegates and those authorized by the Chair will have the privilege of the floor.
7. Delegates must be recognized by the Chair before speaking. Requests to speak will be made through the Q & A function; each request shall include name and League and, if speaking to a motion, whether the delegate wishes to speak pro (in favor of) or con (opposed to) the motion. When recognized by the Chair, each speaker must start by stating name and League, and, if speaking to a motion, whether she/he is speaking pro or con the motion under consideration.
8. Any delegate intending to make a primary motion or offer an amendment shall submit it in writing by 6:00 pm on the night prior to the opening of Convention, as instructed by LWVSC.
9. In debate, no delegate may speak twice on the same motion. Debate shall be limited as determined by these Rules, where specified, or by the Chair. The Chair will announce the total time allocated to each main motion and associated debate.
10. The method of voting shall be announced by the Chair. Voice votes shall be taken by means of the "raise hand" icon, and the Chair's announcement of the

result shall include the number of members voting on each side. An electronic poll may be taken, if needed, at the discretion of the Chair and/or the Parliamentarian.

11. Procedure for adoption of Program for Study and Action:

- A. The proposed Program for Study and Action, as distributed at least four weeks in advance and as written in the Convention Handbook, shall be moved for adoption by a member of the LWVSC Board on the first day of Convention.
- B. Time is provided on the first day of Convention to review the Board-recommended Program for Study and Action and to entertain amendments to the recommended modifications. Any proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing by 6:00 p.m. on the night before the Convention opens. Delegates, limited to one minute each, may speak, up to three for and three against each amendment proposed. A representative of the LWVSC Board may also speak for one minute on why the item is recommended as is. Any approved amendments shall be incorporated into the proposed Program to be brought to a vote on the second day of Convention. After all the recommended items are considered, any delegate may move the consideration of a non-recommended item that was submitted to the state board at least eight weeks before Convention and may speak to it for one minute. A representative of the LWVSC Board may also speak for one minute as to why the item was not recommended. Delegates then vote immediately (without discussion) on the motion to consider the non-recommended item, which needs a majority vote to approve. If consideration is approved, the item then takes its place with the others for debate and vote on the second day of Convention.
- C. On the second day of Convention, debate on the Proposed Program for Study and Action takes place on each item or group of items, as determined by the LWVSC Board, involving board-recommended changes as well as amendments approved by the delegation on the previous day, with strict adherence to time limits. Delegates, limited to one minute each, may speak, up to three for and three against each item or group of items. A representative of the LWVSC Board may also speak for one minute on why the item is recommended. A vote will be taken on each item or group of items, with adoption of those that receive a majority vote in favor. The Convention is the sovereign body of the LWVSC and may adopt positions it believes represent League thinking.
- D. Program debate then follows on any non-recommended item that was voted into consideration on the previous day. Delegates, limited to one

minute each, may speak, up to three for and three against each non-recommended item. A representative of the LWVSC Board may also speak for one minute as to why the item was not recommended. Adoption of a non-recommended item requires a two-thirds vote.

- E. After every convention, the LWVSC *Program and Action Agenda* is rewritten and published to reflect changes in state Program made at Convention.
12. Procedure for adoption of the Budget:
- A. The proposed Budget, as distributed at least four weeks in advance and as written in the Convention Handbook, shall be moved for adoption by the Chair of the Budget Committee on the first day of Convention.
  - B. Budget debate will take place on the second day of Convention. No amendments will be in order at this time. Delegates, limited to one minute each, may speak, three for and three against adoption of the budget as presented. A representative of the LWVSC Board may also speak for one minute on why the budget is recommended. Adoption of the budget requires a majority vote.
13. Procedure for adoption of Revisions to the Bylaws:
- A. The proposed Revisions to the LWVSC Bylaws, as distributed at least four weeks in advance and as written in the Convention Handbook, shall be moved for adoption by a member of the LWVSC Board on the first day of Convention.
  - B. Debate on the proposed Revisions to the Bylaws will take place on the second day of Convention. No amendments will be in order at this time. Delegates, limited to one minute each, may speak, up to three for and three against adoption of the Revisions to the Bylaws as presented. A representative of the LWVSC Board may also speak for one minute on why the revisions are recommended. Adoption of the Revisions to the Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote.
14. Minutes: The minutes of the Convention shall be approved by a committee appointed to review and correct the minutes, which shall forward them to the newly elected Board for approval.



# Parliamentary Procedure Reminders

These parliamentary procedure reminders have been adapted for a virtual Convention

## Making and Debating Motions

- Business is introduced to the delegation in the form of a main motion. A main motion is a formal proposal that the delegation take certain action.
- A motion made on behalf of an entity, such as a League, the Board, or a committee, does not require a second. A motion made by a member needs a second to proceed. These responses should be typed in the Q&A, not the Chat.
- After the motion is made, the Chair restates the motion, putting it “on the floor” for debate and a vote. The motion will be typed on a slide and displayed to the delegates on their screens.
- Main motions or any proposed amendments to “noticed” motions must be submitted prior to the start of Plenary via a form that will be provided. This motion will be sent to staff who create the appropriate slides and share with the Chair and the Parliamentarian. The motion will then need to be made verbally from the floor at the appropriate time. A delegate making a motion will be recognized and her/his microphone will be unmuted.
- To seek recognition to speak, to ask an informational question, to make a motion, or in debate, please use the Q & A function. Send a message through Q & A that includes your name, your local League, whether it is an informational question, a motion, or, during debate, whether you wish to speak pro (in favor of) or con (opposed to) the motion under consideration.
- The maker of a motion is entitled to speak first to explain the rationale, that is, the reason(s) the motion should be adopted.
- If you are recognized by the chair, you will be unmuted and should then begin by stating your name and League. For example, “My name is Jane Doe, LWV of Happy Town” and then read your question or your motion, starting with, “I move that...” If the motion is being made on behalf of your League, then state, “On behalf of [League], I move that...” If you are speaking in debate, say “I am speaking in favor of (or in opposition to) the motion because...”
- In making a motion, debating, or asking an informational question, keep your remarks to one minute.
- Tips to help expedite the business:
  - write down what you are going to say
  - stay on topic
  - bring new information to what has been said before, rather than repeating comments already made or just saying that you agree with

a previous speaker.

### Amending Motions

- When there is a main motion being discussed on the floor, delegates may, in some circumstances, propose changes to the main motion. The different forms for amending are to insert or add, to strike out, to strike out and insert, or to substitute.
- Since most of the business for plenary is required to be “noticed” before convention, that is, distributed for delegate preview, proposed primary amendments:
  - must be germane (relate to the subject of the motion);
  - \* cannot introduce something new;
  - \* must be within the scope of what was noticed (not a greater action); and
  - \* must be submitted in writing online prior to plenary, not during the virtual session.
- The LWVSC Bylaws require notice of four weeks prior to Convention for certain business to come before the delegation: Nominated Slate; Proposed Bylaws Amendments, Proposed Budget, and Proposed Program items. This information is distributed as written to be proposed on the floor. In addition to LWVSC rules, Robert’s Rules advises that when notice is required, there are limits to amending those items of business on the floor because there is the expectation of the scope of the proposed action to be taken.
- Amendments to business items that are noticed before plenary will require that proposed amendments to be made from the floor also be submitted prior to plenary. This is a feasible and orderly process considering the time and logistics of a virtual session.
- With the exception of the Nominated Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee members, non-recommended items require two-thirds vote to approve.

## ROBERTS RULES CHEAT SHEET

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Adjourn	"I move that we adjourn"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	"I move that we recess until..."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Complain about noise, room temp., etc.	"Point of privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Decides
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move that we table it"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

The above listed motions and points are listed in established order of precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below, but you may introduce another that is listed above it.

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Object to procedure or personal affront	"Point of order"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	None
Ask for vote by actual count to verify voice vote	"I call for a division of the house"	Must be done before new motion	No	No	No	None unless someone objects
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question"	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Take up matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table..."	Yes	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..."	Yes	Yes	Only if original motion was debatable	No	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	"I appeal the Chair's decision"	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority

The motions, points and proposals listed above have no established order of preference; any of them may be introduced at any time except when the meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed from the first chart (Motion to Adjourn, Recess, or Point of Privilege).

## Message from the Co-presidents 2019-2021

The last two years have been full of highs and lows, challenges and accomplishments. The pandemic challenged us to learn how to hold virtual meetings, and the results were surprisingly positive. Virtual gatherings include some who had been left out and leave out others who have limited access or comfort with technology, but we did have successful and well-attended 2020 Council and 2021 LEAD meetings with this format, including some excellent speakers. Virtual meetings have also expanded attendance at local League forums by making them available across the state. We hope that will continue.

Many of the accomplishments are behind the scenes, such as updating all the Board policies and reorganizing the board to better serve our mission of Making Democracy Work. Two important additions to the Board in 2019 were a Director for National Issues and Action and one for State Program; these have helped provide board support for local Leagues in both areas. Janie Shipley did an outstanding job as our first-ever National issues Director. The position of State Program director, ably filled by JoAnne Day, provided some relief from the overwhelming array of responsibilities for our VP for Issues and Action, Lynn Teague. Very recently, we added a board level position, Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), that has been filled with energy and initiative by Hannah Parker.

One of our goals was better communication with and support for local Leagues. Our monthly Zoom meetings between state co-presidents and local League leaders have greatly enhanced information-sharing and networking for all concerned. This innovation has brought about a marked improvement in communication with local Leagues and among the leaders themselves. We have also worked with membership director Joyce Franklin to expand our number of MALs and local Leagues. LWV of York County was recognized in January, and other new Leagues are in the works.

Successful fundraising efforts have given the state League more resources. Our fundraising this year and in the future should continue to do well because of the huge efforts made by our treasurer, Nancy Williams, to work through the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) corporation; this tax status makes contributions to the League tax-deductible.

Part of the resources we gained from fundraising were invested in a part-time administrative assistant. Our first administrative assistant was Kim Baker, who had to resign in May 2020 for family reasons. In December 2020, after a long break, we hired Anita Baker. She is a big help, relieving our volunteer board of quite a few administrative tasks. Our resources also helped us continue local League support through state funding assistance for VOTE411.

After the 2019 convention we organized several statewide working groups, modelled on previous groups on off-shore drilling and voter technology. A working group is made up

of designated members of various local Leagues who have an interest in a particular area. Active groups have been VOTE411, which has created a great network of mutual support; redistricting, which has done massive work in advocacy and preparation for the process of drawing lines this fall; education, which reviewed our positions and recommended changes and also put together an excellent program on the digital divide in education for LEAD in January; a newer, energetic natural resources group, and a very new DEI group.

Finally, 2020 was the 100th anniversary of LWVUS and LWVSC. We had many plans that wound up being curtailed by the pandemic, but we participated in events at the Statehouse, acquired proclamations by the governor and several mayors, and celebrated the publication of a history of LWVSC by Sheila Haney called *In Her Shoes*.

As LWVSC moves into its second century, we continue to increase our impact as a statewide organization and to invigorate our members and the general public for unflagging efforts to Make Democracy Work.

-- Holley Ulbrich and Christe McCoy-Lawrence, Co-presidents of LWVSC 2021-2022

# LWVSC Board and Committees 2019-2021

## **Officers**

Christe McCoy-Lawrence	Co-president
Holley Ulbrich	Co-president
Lynn Teague	Vice President for Issues and Action
Jane Turner	Vice President for Voter Services
Marie Vandivort	Secretary
Nancy Williams	Treasurer

## **Directors**

Jean Wood	Communications
Joyce Franklin	Member Services
Janie Shipley	National Issues and Action
JoAnne Day	State Issues and Program
Hannah Parker*	DEI
Matt Saltzman	Redistricting
Nancy Moore	Database Technology
Linda Powers	Editor, <i>SCVoter</i>
Suzanne Rhodes	Issue Specialists/ Coalitions

## **Off-Board Specialists**

Jean Wood	Webmaster
Anne Mellen	Archivist
Sheila Haney	LWVSC History Project
Ted Volskay	Issue: Natural Resources
Shayna Howell	Issue: Redistricting Workgroup
Suzanne Rhodes	Issue: SRS Nuclear Waste Disposal
JoAnne Day	Issue: Voter Registration and Election Laws
Sally Huguley	Issue: Education
Holley Ulbrich	Issue: State and Local Government

Holley Ulbrich

Issue: State and Local Taxation

**Nominating Committee**

Lawson Wetli

Chair, off board (Greenville)

Fran Holt

Off-board (Hilton Head Island- Bluffton)

Catherine Forester

Off-board (Beaufort)

Lynn Teague

Board (Columbia)

Janie Shipley

Board (Clemson)

**Budget Committee**

Janelle Rivers

Chair, off-board (Columbia)

Frances Elmore

Off-board (Florence)

Nancy Moore

Board (Charleston)

Nancy Williams

Board, Treasurer, *ex officio*

\* Appointed January 2021



# LWVSC Membership Report

## LWVSC Membership Data for 2018-2021 (reported to LWVUS as of January 31 each year)

League	2018	2019	2020	2021	%Change 2020-2021	% Change 2019-2021	Net Change 2019-2021
LWVSC (MALs)	4	2	16	8	-50%	300%	6
LWV Beaufort	30	56	59	83	40.7%	48.2%	27
LWV Charleston Area	232	295	192	230	19.8%	-22%	-65
LWV Clemson Area	112	90	82	85	3.7%	-5.6%	-5
LWV Columbia Area	154	172	179	181	1.1%	5.2%	9
LWV Darlington County	16	21	16	22	37.5%	4.8%	1
LWV Florence Area	32	34	36	28	-22.2%	-17.6%	-6
LWV Georgetown County	12	13	14	18	28.6%	38.5%	5
LWV Greenville County	90	122	141	112	-20.6%	-8.2%	-10
LWV Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area	130	137	178	216	21.3%	57.7%	79
LWV Horry County	13	17	20	28	40%	64.7%	11
LWV Spartanburg County	58	62	67	79	17.9%	27.4%	17
LWV Sumter County	26	26	23	16	-30.4%	-38.5%	-10
LWV York County				23	N/A	N/A	23
<b>TOTALS</b>	909	1047	1023	1129	10.4%	7.8%	82

# Nominating Committee Report

LWVSC 2020-21 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: February 17, 2021

The 2020-21 Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina proposes the following slate to be presented at the convention of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina to be held May 1 and 2, 2021:

## Nominees for LWVSC Board Positions:

President	Nancy Williams (HHI-Bluffton)
VP Issues & Action	Lynn Teague (Columbia)
VP Voter Services	Jean Wood (Greenville)
Secretary	Janelle Rivers (Columbia)
Treasurer	Connie Deerin (Charleston)
Director – DEI	Hannah Parker (Florence)
Director – Member Services	Joyce Franklin (Darlington)
Director – State Program	Holley Ulbrich (Clemson)
Director – Issue Specialists/Coalitions	JoAnne Day (Columbia)
Director – National Issues & Action	Sharda Jackson Smith (Greenville)
Director – Communications	Mary Agnes Garman (HHI-Bluffton)
Director – Database Technology	Nancy Moore (Charleston)

## Nominees for LWVSC 2022-23 Nominating Committee:

Chair	Janie Shipley (Clemson)
Member, off-board	Bernadette Hampton (Beaufort)
Member, off-board	Leslie Skardon (Charleston)

## Nominee Bios

### **President -- Nancy Williams (HHI-Bluffton)**

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Nancy Williams has lived in South Carolina for over 33 years and has been a member of LWVSC since 1991. After her retirement in 2013 as Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of the Lowcountry, Nancy served as LWVHHI-BA's Vice President (2014-16) and Co-president (2017-19). She was elected to LWVSC's board in 2019 and currently serves as Treasurer. Prior to moving to the Lowcountry from Hartford, Connecticut, Nancy worked as a human resources manager for Cigna and Aetna and as a high school English teacher.

Nancy has a passion for empowering people—youth through education, adults through literacy, women through reproductive rights, and citizens through voting rights. In addition to other community activities, she is a past board chair, state director, and member of various regional and national committees for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University (BA) and Wesleyan University (MALS).

### **VP for Issues & Action -- Lynn Teague (Columbia)**

Lynn Shuler Teague was born in Orangeburg, S.C., and moved to New Mexico in 1968. After serving on the faculty of the Arizona State Museum, she became Director of the Museum's Cultural Resource Management Division, which conducted archaeological field research programs. In 1990 she assumed responsibility for administering Arizona's repatriation laws, which provide for the protection of Native American historic burials, sacred objects, and sacred places. Since returning to South Carolina, Lynn has become active in the League of Women Voters. Since 2012, she has been LWVSC VP for Issues and Action, also serving as the League's lobbyist at the S.C. State House.

### **VP for Voter Services -- Jean Wood (Greenville)**

Jean Wood has been a member of the Greenville County League for over twelve years. For eight of those years she was the president. She is originally from a suburb of Chicago but has been in the south and up and down the east coast for many, many years. Currently retired, she spent her career programming computers. She still volunteers three afternoons a week at the Cancer Center.

### **Secretary -- Janelle Rivers (Columbia)**

Janelle Rivers is a grandmother of four, a retired educator, and a South Carolina native. A member of the League since 2007, she was selected in 2010 to chair a national LWV committee to prepare materials on Common Core Standards and Assessments for the League's study of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. She has served as Vice President, President, and Membership Chair of the Columbia League. She holds degrees from Columbia College (BA), Boston University (MA) and the

University of South Carolina (Ph.D.).

Janelle began her career as a classroom teacher in Charleston County, studied counseling and educational research, and became an administrator, overseeing assessment, accountability, evaluation, and research activities –first at the South Carolina Department of Education, later in Richland District One and for the last 18 years of her career, in Lexington District One She devotes time to the work of the League of Women Voters because she believes in the importance of working for good government, promoting fair elections, informing voters, and eliminating corruption.

### **Treasurer -- Connie Deerin (Charleston)**

Connie has been involved with the LWV of the Charleston Area since 2015 and became Treasurer in 2016. She remained in that position through fiscal year 2018. During her time on the board, she was active in many critical membership events such as Presenting “Who We Are – A Chronicle of Racism,” an event featuring Jeffrey Robinson of the ACLU, and for launching the LWVCAConnects program, an outreach effort to include and diversify the LWVCA message to members and the community.

Connie was raised in Washington, D.C., gained her M.A. in special education from Columbia University and her undergraduate degree in English from Fairfield University. She resides on Daniel Island and is surrounded by three of her four siblings and their families, who are found throughout the lowcountry. Her kids and grandkids live on the west coast. Connie currently works as a Realtor and up until recently also volunteered at the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon on the Preservation Committee.

### **Director for DEI -- Hannah Parker (Florence)**

A native of Greenville, S.C., Hannah joined the LWV of Greenville in 2008, providing educational updates from both political parties. As a member of the Florence League beginning in 2018, she has worked in voter registration activities and candidate forum planning and also created the LWV of Florence DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) action plan.

Hannah worked on her first presidential campaign in 1996 while she was a Clemson University undergraduate in political science. She continued work in opposition research while attaining her graduate degree, a Master in Public Administration, Human Resources Management, from University of South Carolina and Clemson University (joint-degree program). Professionally, Hannah is a certified career coach with 20 years in Global HR Leadership experience.

Hannah lives in Florence, SC, with her husband, a US Navy veteran, and their Shichi named Meghan

### **Director for Member Services -- Joyce Franklin (Darlington)**

Joyce Franklin is a longtime League member who has served the Darlington League as board member, vice president, and president. She has also served on the state coaching team. Joyce likes the fact that the League is non-partisan and addresses policy issues in a systematic way with input from every member and a group decision. Joyce is looking forward to her role as director of membership; she likes the connectivity required when recruiting new members. She also enjoys doing voter registration. Joyce is a retired Clemson Extension agent.

### **Director for State Program -- Holley Ulbrich (Clemson)**

Holley Ulbrich is finishing four years as co-president of LWVSC. She is a charter member of the Clemson League, founded in 1958, and has served the state board over the years in many capacities, including as issue specialist on education funding, home rule, tax policy, and utility regulation. She spent her professional career as a professor of economics at Clemson University, specializing in state and local public finance. She has worked with entities and agencies at every level, from school districts and municipalities to the federal government and the World Bank, and is the author of 16 books, most but not all of them textbooks. Holley is also an active church volunteer and teaches short courses for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She has three grown daughters and four granddaughters ranging in age from 16 to 24.

### **Director for Issue Specialists/ Coalitions -- JoAnne Day (Columbia)**

JoAnne Day has spent most of her professional life developing and installing computer software; she retired as a Managing Consultant from IBM in 2009. After retirement, JoAnne served as the state League's Issues and Action Vice-President and served two terms as Co-President (2013-2017). JoAnne is also a trustee and Secretary of the ETV Endowment of South Carolina, and, as a longtime advocate of women's reproductive rights, JoAnne served as a board member of Planned Parenthood South Atlantic. She has also enjoyed being a docent for the Columbia Museum of Art for several years and is currently serving on the Docent Board of Directors. Finally, as a long time advocate of voter rights in South Carolina, JoAnne was appointed by the governor in April, 2020, to serve as a commissioner on the South Carolina Election Commission.

### **Director for National Issues & Action -- Sharda Jackson Smith (Greenville)**

Dr. Sharda Jackson Smith currently serves as Interim Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor for the School of Education, Human Performance, and Health at the University of South Carolina Upstate. As a first-generation college student and three-time University of Florida graduate, Jackson Smith understands the importance of a quality educational experience. With the goal of creating a pathway to equitable opportunity for students, her post-secondary teaching experience caters to P-12 pre-service and practicing teachers. Jackson Smith is involved in professional and community initiatives that focus on state and federal public education policy, disproportionate funding, and teacher advocacy. Jackson Smith currently serves on the state Education Working Group and the Board of Directors for the Greenville local

League.

**Director for Communications -- Mary Agnes Garman (HHI- Bluffton)**

Live oaks, tidal marsh vistas, and the promise of warmer weather drew Mary Agnes Garman to retirement in the Lowcountry from a lifetime in Northern Virginia. Mary Agnes spent 20+ years as an elementary school principal in the large, diverse Fairfax County Public Schools system on the doorstep of Washington, DC. A longtime advocate for public education, she served as an officer of local and state principal associations.

Responding to the advent of new technology became a priority during her tenure. Mary Agnes harnessed its power to pursue her passion: opening the lines of communication between schools and parents. In recognition, she was awarded Outstanding Communicator by the National School Public Relations Association.

To help make a difference in 2017, Mary Agnes had to look no further than the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area LWV, led by women she'd already admired. Mary Agnes was instrumental in HHI-Bluffton's transition to e-news, a new MyLO website, and LWVHHI-BA rebranding.

**Director for Database Technology -- Nancy Moore (Charleston)**

Nancy Moore, PhD, retired from USC Upstate where she was an English teacher, administrator, and former teacher of the year. Her faculty colleagues established in her name both a scholarship and an award for promotion of women's rights. Other awards include a statewide ACLU award in civil rights and 2012 Folly Beach Citizen of the Year. She began working with LWVSC in the seventies as state director for the Equal Rights Amendment and later worked in the ERA Countdown Campaign. During the eighties, she served two years as president of SC National Organization for Women. Since 1990 she has focused on electing women, using databases to target and help direct more than two dozen campaigns.

**Chair, LWVSC 2022-23 Nominating Committee -- Janie Shipley (Clemson)**

Janie Shipley is an active member of the LWV of the Clemson Area. She has served multiple terms as local president and has also served on the local nominating committee several times. On the board of LWVSC, she has served as Director for Membership, is currently the Director for National Issues and Action, and recently served on the 2021 LWVSC Nominating Committee. Retired from the student health center at Clemson University, Janie is a native North Carolinian and owns the family farm near Boone with her siblings. She and her husband are the parents of a daughter who lives in northern Virginia.

**Member, LWVSC 2022-23 Nominating Committee -- Bernadette R. Hampton (Beaufort)**

Bernadette R Hampton was reared in Beaufort, South Carolina. She is a mathematics instructor and a past mathematics department chair at Battery Creek High School. She has 27 years of experience in the education profession.

She received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Morris College and a Master of Education from Cambridge College. She also received a second Master of Education in Teaching from the University of South Carolina located in Columbia, SC. Ms. Hampton has been a member of the Morris College National Alumni Association Leadership Team from 2009 - 2014. She is a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the League of Women Voters of the Beaufort, SC Area as well as Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. She is the current chair of the League of Women Voters of the Beaufort Area Education Committee and serves on the board.

Ms. Hampton has served as the President of The South Carolina Education Association. She served as president of her local, The Beaufort County Education Association, from 2002 through 2008. She also served as the Vice President of The SCEA from 2010-2014. Currently, she is serving on the National Education Association Board as the NEA Director Representative for SC.

**Member, LWVSC 2022-23 Nominating Committee -- Leslie Skardon (Charleston)**

Leslie is on the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area and serves as their Director of Good Governance and Ethics. Most recently, she has spearheaded the League's Good Governance Symposium, focusing on Voting Rights, Redistricting, Electoral College and Institutional Reform, Dark Money and Campaign Finance and Voting and Election Systems and Approaches.

In her professional capacity, Leslie runs the Charleston office of Global Prairie, a purpose-driven marketing and consulting firm. Before joining Global Prairie, Leslie was the Assistant Vice President at Urban Swirski and Associates, a boutique government relations firm in Washington, DC. Leslie serves on the City of Charleston's Climate Action Plan Education Committee and is part of the Charleston Metro Area Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Charleston program. She completed her MBA from Georgetown with a focus in Non-Market Strategy and earned her BA from Tufts University. Leslie lives on James Island with her husband Sam, and their rescue pup, Stewart.

# Proposed Revisions of the Bylaws

The LWVSC Board recommends revisions to the LWVSC Bylaws as indicated below. Text being added or altered is in the right hand column in bold green font; text being deleted is indicated in the left hand column with strike-through. The complete bylaws are available at [https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/league\\_of\\_women\\_voters\\_of\\_south\\_carolina\\_bylaws\\_2019\\_final.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/league_of_women_voters_of_south_carolina_bylaws_2019_final.pdf).

CURRENT TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT
<p>ARTICLE IV - LOCAL LEAGUES AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE (MAL) UNITS</p> <hr/> <p>Sec. 2. <u>Member-at-large (MAL) Units.</u></p> <p>a. The state board may authorize the establishment of MAL Units in communities in which <del>the establishment of a recognized local League is not feasible</del>. MAL Units shall operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS and within guidelines adopted by the state board.</p> <p>b. In the event of recurrent failure to adhere to the guidelines for MAL Units or to operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS or within state guidelines, the state board may withdraw approval of the MAL unit. All funds held by a MAL unit from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the state League.</p> <p>ARTICLE V - OFFICERS</p> <p>Sec. 5. <u>The Treasurer.</u> The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for an <del>annual</del> review of the books by a qualified person not on the state board; and, at the direction of the state board, maintain deposits in financial institutions authorized by the state board.</p>	<p>ARTICLE IV - LOCAL LEAGUES AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE (MAL) UNITS</p> <hr/> <p>Sec. 2. Member-at-large (MAL) Units</p> <p>a. The state board may authorize the establishment of MAL Units in communities in which <b>no recognized local League currently exists</b>. MAL Units shall operate within the limitations established by LWVUS and within guidelines adopted by the state board.</p> <p>b. In the event of recurrent failure to adhere to the guidelines for MAL Units or to operate within the limitations established by the LWVUS or within <b>LWVSC</b> guidelines, the state board may withdraw approval of the MAL unit. All funds held by a MAL Unit from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the state League.</p> <p>ARTICLE V - OFFICERS</p> <p>Sec. 5. <u>The Treasurer.</u> The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for a <b>biennial</b> review of the books by a qualified person not on the state board; and, at the direction of the state</p>



ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 3. Executive Committee. The state board may appoint an executive committee consisting of ~~no fewer than 5 members of the board~~. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the state board at its discretion and shall report to the state board on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the board. The president shall be ex officio chair.

Sec. 4. Meetings. At least 4 regular meetings shall be held annually at such time and place as the board may determine. The president may call special meetings and, upon the written request of 5 members of the board, shall call a special meeting. Notice of all regular meetings shall be given by mail at least two weeks before the meeting, and notice of all special meetings shall be so given at least six days before the meeting. During the convention or council meeting the president may call, or upon the request of 5 members shall call, a special meeting by giving written notice to each member of the board. More than 3 unexcused absences shall constitute a resignation.

Sec. 6. Board Communications. When an urgent decision must be made by the Board between regular meetings, the President may contact members of the Board using conference calls and/or email. ~~Conference calls may be used for discussion, but both the text of motions and the vote should be in writing, with email voters using the "reply all" mode.~~ Board members must be given full

board, maintain deposits in financial institutions authorized by the state board.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 3. Executive Committee. The state board may appoint an executive committee consisting of **the officers of the board**. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the state board at its discretion and shall report to the state board on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the board. The president shall be ex officio chair.

Sec. 4. Meetings. At least four regular meetings shall be held annually at such time and place as the board may determine. The president may call special meetings and, upon the written request of five members of the board, shall call a special meeting.

**Meetings may be conducted via teleconferencing or video conferencing technology.** Notice of all regular meetings shall be given by mail **or email** at least two weeks before the meeting, and notice of all special meetings shall be so given at least six days before the meeting. During the convention or council meeting the president may call, or upon the request of five members shall call, a special meeting by giving written **or emailed** notice to each member of the board. More than three unexcused absences **from regularly scheduled state board meetings** shall constitute a resignation.

Sec. 6. Board Communications. When an urgent decision must be made by the state board between regular meetings, the president may **convene the** members of the board **via teleconference or videoconferencing technology.** Board

information about the issue to be decided and sufficient time to share opinions before the final decision is given. A quorum of the Board must respond or the votes are not valid. ~~The emergency decision must be confirmed by a vote at the next board meeting for inclusion in the minutes.~~

#### ARTICLE VII - CONVENTION

Sec. 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of:

- a. delegates chosen ~~by the members of each local League~~ as follows: Each League shall be entitled to at least one delegate; when local League membership reaches 15 voting members, the local League shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional ten voting members up to 105 and one additional delegate for each additional 25 or major fraction thereof. The official membership count shall be determined by state office records of voting members as of February 1 of the year in which convention is held.
- b. one delegate from each MAL Unit chosen by its members.
- c. the members of the state board.

#### ARTICLE VIII - COUNCIL

Sec. 4. Powers. The council shall give guidance to the state board on program and methods of work.

- a. In the event of an emergency, the council may change the program, only upon recommendation of the state board or a local

members must be given full information about the issue to be decided and sufficient time to share opinions before the final decision is **made**. A quorum of the board must **participate or the decision cannot be made**.

#### ARTICLE VII - CONVENTION

Sec. 2. Composition. The convention shall consist of:

- a. delegates chosen **from within each local League membership** as follows: Each League shall be entitled to at least one delegate; when local League membership reaches 15 voting members, the local League shall be entitled to one additional delegate; thereafter one additional delegate shall be authorized for each additional ten voting members up to 105 and one additional delegate for each additional 25 or major fraction thereof. The official membership count shall be determined by state office records of voting members as of February 1 of the year in which convention is held.
- b. one delegate from each MAL Unit chosen by its members.
- c. the members of the state board.

#### ARTICLE VIII – COUNCIL

League, using the following procedure: (1) at least six weeks before the council meeting any local League proposing a change shall submit it to the state board which shall decide whether to recommend it; (2) at least four weeks before the council meeting, the state board shall send to the president of local Leagues and the chair of MAL units all proposed changes; (3) any change proposed by a local League and not recommended by the state board shall first require a majority vote of the council for consideration; (4) a two-thirds vote shall be required to adopt any change.

b. The council ~~shall adopt a budget and~~ shall transact such other business as may properly come before it.

#### ARTICLE IX - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 3. Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, shall be sent to the president of local Leagues and the chair of MAL Units at least four weeks before convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention at its first session. Nominations may be made from the floor provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

#### ARTICLE X - PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

d. ~~Changes in the proposed program;~~

Sec. 4. Powers. The council shall give guidance to the state board on program and methods of work.

a. In the event of an emergency, the council may change the program, only upon recommendation of the state board or a local League, using the following procedure: (1) at least six weeks before the council meeting any local League proposing a change shall submit it to the state board which shall decide whether to recommend it; (2) at least four weeks before the council meeting, the state board shall send to the president of local Leagues and the chair of MAL units all proposed changes; (3) any change proposed by a local League and not recommended by the state board shall first require a majority vote of the council for consideration; (4) a two-thirds vote shall be required to adopt any change.

**b. The council shall transact such other business as may properly come before**

#### ARTICLE IX - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 3. Report of Nominating Committee. The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors and the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, **shall be sent to the state board at least six weeks before convention and** to the president of local Leagues and the chair of MAL Units at least four weeks before convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the convention at its first session. Nominations may be made from the

~~because of altered conditions, may be recommended by local League boards and MAL units up to two weeks before the state board acts upon the proposed changes, allowing local League boards and MAL units to respond before the state board meeting.~~

e. The convention shall adopt a program by a majority vote. Program recommendations submitted to the state board but not ~~proposed~~ by the board may be adopted by the convention only if they were submitted at least eight weeks before the convention and provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and adoption is voted on a following day. A two-thirds vote is required to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the floor of convention.

#### ARTICLE XI - NATIONAL CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Sec. 1. National Convention. The state board shall ~~elect~~ delegates to the national convention in the number allowed LWVSC under the provisions of the bylaws of LWWUS.

Sec. 2. National Council. The state board shall ~~elect~~ delegates to the national council in the number allowed LWVSC under the provisions of the bylaws of LWWUS.

#### ARTICLE XII - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 3. Budget.

a. The budget shall be prepared by a committee made up of one off-board

floor provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

#### ARTICLE X - PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

d. The convention shall adopt a program by a majority vote. Program recommendations submitted to the state board but not **recommended** by the state board may be adopted by the convention only if they were submitted **by a local League** at least eight weeks before the convention and provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote **at convention** and adoption is voted **by a two-thirds vote** on a following day. A two-thirds vote is required to amend or adopt a state League position by concurrence on the floor of convention.

#### ARTICLE XI - NATIONAL CONVENTION AND COUNCIL

Sec.1. National Convention. The state board shall **appoint** delegates to the national convention in the number allowed to LWVSC under the provisions of the bylaws of LWWUS.

Sec. 2. National Council. The state board shall **appoint** delegates to the national council in the number allowed to LWVSC under the provisions of the bylaws of LWWUS.

member, one member of the state board, and an off board chair appointed by the state board. The treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee. The committee shall submit a proposed budget for state board approval at least six weeks before the convention or council.

b. The state board shall send to the president of local Leagues and the chair of MAL units, at least four weeks before the convention or council, a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. A budget shall be adopted by a majority vote.

~~**Non-Partisanship Policy for LWVSC Board Members** In order to maintain the nonpartisan image of the League, a state board member must resign if she or he runs for a partisan political office elected by the general public, or accepts appointment to such an office. Public endorsement of any partisan candidate or party must be avoided by the president, voter services chair, and LWVSC authorized lobbyists. If there is any question about the political activity of any state board member, this should be brought before the state board for review and decision.~~

~~If a spouse or partner of a state board member runs for any partisan political office, this need not disqualify the state board member from a position of the board. This should be brought before the state board for review and decision.~~

~~**Social Media:** A Board member shall not indicate her/his political affiliations or candidate preferences at any level of government in the media, including on social networking sites or other public venues that also prominently identify her/him as a member of the LWVSC.~~

## ARTICLE XII - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

### Sec. 3. Budget.

- a. The **biennial** budget shall be prepared by a committee made up of one off-board member, one member of the state board, and an off-board chair appointed by the state board. The treasurer shall be, ex officio, a member of the budget committee. The committee shall submit a proposed budget for state board approval at least six weeks **before the convention.**
- b. The state board shall send to the president of local Leagues and the chair of MAL units, at least four weeks before the convention, a proposed budget for the next **two** fiscal years. A budget shall be adopted by a majority vote.

# Treasurer's Report

**Nancy Williams, Treasurer**

A net gain of \$24,509 is projected by year-end of fiscal year 2020-2021. This large net gain is attributable to successful fundraising, projected to exceed our budgeted contribution income by 88 percent, and to underspending in board and state meeting expense areas as the result of decisions to hold virtual instead of in-person meetings during a pandemic. Projected year-end income and expenses by line item appear alongside the proposed budget for 2021-2023.

Other activities in the office of the treasurer included:

- successful application to the IRS for a change in LWVSC's tax-exempt status from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3) status
- revision and development of new financial policies, including a gift acceptance policy and an operating reserve policy that requires that a minimum of 3 months of operating expenses be held in reserve
- support to two local Leagues in their applications to the IRS for reinstatement as tax-exempt organizations
- development and monitoring of a policy laying out criteria for a local League's maintaining good standing with LWVSC
- support to the York County MAL Unit

As a result of LWVSC's change in status to a 501(c)(3) organization and in anticipation of a future need to hire a part-time lobbyist, the board approved the creation of a companion 501(c)(4) organization to be called LWVSC Action and restricted \$22,500 of its reserves to be used as money to "seed" LWVSC Action at some future point. This move was necessary because a 501(c)(4) organization may spend unlimited amounts of money on lobbying expenses whereas a 501(c)(3) organization may spend no more than 20 percent of its budget on lobbying. The remaining unrestricted reserves are adequate to meet the 3-month operating reserve requirement and to position LWVSC comfortably at the beginning of the 2021-2023 biennium.

In short, LWVSC's financial position is strong.

# **Budget Committee Report on the Budget**

## **Janelle Rivers, Chair, LWVSC Budget Committee**

The Budget Committee recognizes that context for planning has changed considerably since the last biennial meeting. First, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina has an improved financial position, resulting from fund-raising activities and increased contributions. Second, the board has adopted vigorous new goals and has committed to structural changes that will allow more flexibility in advocacy activities. These factors influenced our recommendations.

### **Context:**

The LWVSC Board has adopted goals that will increase expenditures. The goals are to (1) increase organizational capacity, (2) strengthen advocacy and education efforts, (3) empower local Leagues, (4) expand LWVSC membership and representation geographically throughout SC, and (5) engage in purposeful action to address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

The board has restricted \$22,500 of its reserve funds as seed money for LWVSC Action, a companion organization that will be created in anticipation of a future need to spend more for advocacy and hire a part-time contract lobbyist. Early in the 2020-2021 fiscal year the LWVSC board decided to form a 501(c)(4) organization called LWVSC Action, which will have separate meetings, separate bylaws, and a separate budget; however, the board members will be the same as the LWVSC board. The \$22,500 in restricted funds will be seed money, a one-time allowable transfer of funds from our 501(c)(3) organization, and the amount approximates the sum of money in our checking and money market accounts at the end of fiscal year 2019-2020, which was LWVSC's last year as a 501(c)(4) organization. A date for the operationalizing LWVSC Action has not yet been set and is not expected in the next year. The only effect on the proposed budget might be the transfer of the expense for advocacy fees to the new organization in the second year. Both closely aligned organizations will solicit donations from League members and others, while making clear the proposed use and tax implications of donations for either stream of income. This separation of activities and finances is in keeping with current best practices of politically active organizations; the national League and many other state Leagues have already adopted this approach. The plan to create separate organizations was adopted by the LWVSC board prior to the initiation of the budgeting process, and the proposed budget that is attached relates only to the work of LWVSC.

The board has adopted a policy that requires maintaining at least three months of reserve funds. Unrestricted LWVSC reserves include money in our checking account and a three-month operating reserve.

### **Assumptions:**

We celebrate the fact that LWVSC collected more money than anticipated by the previous budget and recognize that increased interest in the League and accompanying

revenue allow for expansion of the League's activities.

We are basing our income projections on (1) the fact that LWVSC is projected to end the current year with 88% more contributions than anticipated by the last budget, resulting in a year-end net gain of about \$24,500, and (2) the proposed establishment of a team dedicated to fund-raising. Consequently, we have budgeted contributions for next year at 95% percent over the current budget with an additional \$1,000 increase in the following year.

We assume that in-person LWVSC board meetings will resume in September and that in-person state and national meetings will resume at the beginning of 2022.

Recommendations:

The Budget Committee believes that LWVSC has enough funds in reserve to support both the creation of a separate 501(c)(4) organization and implementation of the goals that have been adopted by the LWVSC board. We commend the LWVSC board for establishing a policy to maintain a minimum reserve of three months of operating budget for LWVSC and suggest that the amount of money required in reserve be reevaluated at the end of 2021-2022.

We propose a budget for the 2021-2023 biennium that represents an aggressive push to support LWVSC Board goals of increasing capacity, strengthening advocacy and education efforts, empowering local Leagues, expanding statewide geographic representation, and purposefully addressing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The proposed budget of \$50,062 in the first year includes \$15,611 in new expenses and represents an increase of 57% over the current budget when budget neutral expenses for state and national meetings are excluded. Our plan makes use of some of the projected gain by proposing a deficit budget of \$2,278 in the first year, partly offset by a small surplus in the second year to return our operating reserves to a more comfortable level at the beginning of the next biennium.

Additionally, we oppose using League funds to give donations or memorials to outside charitable organizations because the League solicits money from the public for its own mission. Any memorials from League funds should be directed only to League activities. Payments to coalitions that share our advocacy goals do not fall into this category.



## Proposed LWVSC Budget 2021-2023

	20-21	20-21	21-22	22-23	21-23
	Budget	Projected	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
<b>INCOME</b>					
Contributions	13300	25000	26000	27000	53000
Restricted Gift		25000			
100th Anniversary		5925			
Ed Fund		6940			
Grants		4250	1250	0	1250
LWVSC Dues	400	1034	500	1000	1500
PMP	14427	12446	14084	15500	29584
Sales	900	2400	450	525	975
State Meetings	21250	0	4500	22500	27000
Miscellaneous	424	3000	1000	1000	2000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>50701</b>	<b>85995</b>	<b>47784</b>	<b>67525</b>	<b>115309</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Advocacy	2000	5235	2062	1500	3562
100th Anniversary	0	5925	0	0	0
Board Meetings	1900	0	2500	1200	3700
Communications	7550	8657	8900	8925	17825
Contracted Services	4300	2800	10000	10500	20500
Cost of Sales	325	2100	1314	241	1555
Donations	250	455	400	400	800
Education Programming*	200	600	2000	2000	4000
Fees		927	50	50	100
Fundraising Expenses	5000	5076	5300	5775	11075
Local League Support*	2500	1364	2500	2500	5000
LWVUS PMP	448	448	224	544	768
Membership	600	0	1200	1200	2400
Office/Administration	600	499	712	762	1474
Voter Service**	1300	26400	5100	5300	10400
State/National Mtgs.	23250	0	7000	24500	31500
Miscellaneous	478	1000	800	800	1600
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>50701</b>	<b>61486</b>	<b>50062</b>	<b>66197</b>	<b>116259</b>
* Includes DEI					
**Includes LL support					
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>		<b>24509</b>	<b>-2278</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>-950</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Checking Account		7452	5174	6502	
Money Market/Reserve		39753	39768	39783	
Restricted for 501(c)(4)		-22500	-22500	-22500	
Unrestricted Assets		24705	22442	23785	

# Proposed Program for Study and Action 2021-2023

Program planning responses were received from 10 local Leagues. The LWVSC Board reviewed all comments and suggestions from responding Leagues. After reviewing the responses, the state Board recommends all current positions be retained with the changes outlined below. Wording to be deleted is indicated with strike-through; wording to be added is underlined.

PLEASE SEE *PROGRAM AND ACTION AGENDA 2019-2021* FOR A FULL STATEMENT OF CURRENT LWVSC POSITIONS [[HTTPS://MY.LWV.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES//LWVSC\\_PROGRAMACTIONAGENDA\\_2019-2021\\_REV\\_5-20\\_FINAL.PDF](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files//LWVSC_PROGRAMACTIONAGENDA_2019-2021_REV_5-20_FINAL.PDF)]

## **ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY**

### **REDISTRICTING --- RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS**

#### **VOTER REGISTRATION/VOTER ACCESS**

LWVSC supports ensuring access to registration and voting for all citizens

by:

1. Retain
2. Creating clear and accessible registration procedures and access to ~~absentee~~ early mail or in-person voting for all ~~eligible~~ citizens eligible to vote, including those with disabilities.
3. Retain
4. Retain
5. ~~Devising simplified~~ Providing easy and secure online, mail, and in person voter registration procedures ~~with sufficient safeguards to prevent fraud.~~ (Recommended by Charleston)
6. Developing and publishing uniform, non-discriminatory rules for moving registered voters to the inactive rolls ~~by the Election Commission~~ and making the list of voters reclassified as inactive publicly available no later than 60 days prior to an election.
7. Removing the requirement for a witness signature on absentee by mail ballots.

8. Defining technical deficiencies in ballots consistently and notifying all voters whose ballots are received with technical deficiencies that their ballots could be rejected; providing an opportunity for those voters to cure the defect so that their ballot would be counted.
9. Providing ballot drop boxes at secure locations during the full period when in person voting is permitted.
10. Permitting same-day registration.
11. Providing automatic voter registration with driver's license.
12. Joining the National Popular Vote Compact.
13. Allowing universal no-excuse early voting
14. Allowing part-time poll workers.
15. Prohibiting discriminatory practices related to polling places, including impediments to access through inaccessible location, frequent changes of location, excessive consolidation, insufficient staffing, insufficient or defective voting systems.

## **ELECTION MANAGEMENT**

5. Providing for proper conduct of elections through:
  - a. Instituting authority to poll watch in elections for a ballot issue.

## **EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT**

### **TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Appointments by the executive and legislative branches of state government that:
  - b. Ensure representative government by including people of different ~~raees~~ ethnicity, sexes, gender, and ages.
2. ~~Stronger lobbying rules to prevent~~ Prohibition on former legislators' ~~from~~ lobbying on the floor.
3. Retain
4. Retain

5. Retain

6. An audit process that includes the following:

a. An independent state agency that audits state government programs.

b. Retaining the Legislative Audit Council under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly.

c. Audit and oversight of state government programs by ~~request of the~~ legislature, randomly and periodically, and/or in response to special need in order to determine efficiency/cost effectiveness, compliance with state and federal statutes and regulations, how programs compare to similar programs in other states, customer/citizen satisfaction/politeness, equity (treating all citizens equally), and results.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

LWVSC supports making the General Assembly more efficient, effective, accountable and responsive through:

1. Provision for ~~more~~ roll call votes on most bills other than congratulatory and honorary resolutions and unanimous consent motions.
2. Subsistence pay for ~~Senators~~ members of the General Assembly only when present. ~~(as in House)~~.
3. Pre-session orientation and organization for the Senate (as in House).
7. Modification of the Senate committee assignment procedures to include criteria other than just seniority.
9. Full publicizing of all committee meetings year-round in a timely manner, with at least 24 hours notice, giving date, time and place, including at [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov), ~~including listing with the Legislative Information System.~~

**EXECUTIVE AND REGULATORY -- RETAIN**

**JUDICIARY -- RETAIN**

**CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION -- RETAIN**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOME RULE -- RETAIN**

**STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION -- RETAIN**

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN SERVICES

## RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY -- RETAIN

### EDUCATION

#### GOVERNANCE – EARLY CHILDHOOD (EC) THROUGH GRADE 12

1. State Board of Education, ~~with the majority of members elected by the legislature on the “one person one vote” principle and the remainder appointed by the Governor~~ appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the General Assembly, to include two members from each Congressional district, At least three appointees must be teachers, one each from the elementary, middle, and high school levels. (Recommended by Charleston, Greenville, Horry, and Hilton Head Island-Bluffton)
2. Gubernatorial appointment of the State Superintendent of Education, with the advice and consent of the General Assembly. The appointee must have substantial administrative and/or teaching experience of P K-12 public education. (Recommended by Charleston, Hilton Head Island-Bluffton)
3. Non-partisan election of local board of education members for four-year terms ~~with limited self-succession~~. (Recommended by Hilton Head Island-Bluffton, Charleston) *Question was raised about term limits, which the League supports in no other context.*

## FUNDING -- RETAIN

### EFFECTIVE EDUCATION

26. Continued offering of full day kindergarten, expansion of full day 4-K to all area of the state, and expansion of pre-school with small class size, low pupil-teacher ratio, aides and developmentally appropriate programs, and with parental choice of full day or half day. *The question was raised whether 4-K should be deleted as a fait accompli. No. League positions are not contingent on the current status of state statutes and constitution. Reference to this position would be needed, for example, if there was an attempt to remove state funding for 4-K.*
30. Recognizing that the teacher is the most important school-based component of academic achievement, school districts should implement a comprehensive teacher evaluation. The fair and comprehensive evaluation system should occur regularly and be a clearly communicated process. (Recommended by Hilton Head Island-Bluffton.) The system should include the following:
  - a. Offer educators a wide variety of support before and during evaluation.

- b. Assure that all teachers are evaluated on a regular basis;
- c. Include three or more qualitative rating categories to identify and retain effective teachers (for example, categories of: Highly Effective, Effective, Needs Improvement, rather than letter grades)
- d. Include student progress as one of the factors used for rating teacher effectiveness;
- e. Use clearly defined, widely accepted standards, and consistent, well trained evaluators;
- f. Use teachers in developing and implementing the evaluation system;
- g. Provide feedback to teachers to help them develop skills and support decisions for retention, dismissal and assignments;
- h. Be equitably and fully funded across the state's public school systems.

39. Equal Access: Charter Schools must maintain racial and ethnic balance among students unless imbalances are justified by a special program. They must not practice discrimination based on disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, need for special education, or economic status. Free transportation must be provided within the territorial jurisdiction of the Charter School. There should be no requirements for parental participation or support which might limit access for minority or disadvantaged students. (Recommended by Hilton Head Island-Bluffton)

41. Civics Education: The League supports comprehensive civics education in middle and high school developed through the state and local review and development process for social studies curricula.

**HEALTH CARE -- RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS**

**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS -- RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE --- RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY -- RETAIN EXISTING POSITIONS**

**CONCURRENCE**

No Concurrence Items

## **PROPOSED NEW STUDIES**

No Proposed New Studies are recommended. See “Non-Recommended Items” for a study proposal.

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

No Proposed Resolutions

## **NON-RECOMMENDED ITEMS**

In general, items covered under LWVUS *Issues and Action* are not recommended for inclusion in the LWVSC *Program and Action Agenda* document, both because it is redundant and because it would require on-going monitoring and revision to ensure that there are no discrepancies between the two that would confuse efforts to educate and advocate on League issues.

## **ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY**

Holding municipal elections in even years when turnout is typically higher.  
(Recommended by Greenville)

*Since municipal elections are a home rule issue, local leagues are encouraged to do a local study of this issue in their communities.*

## **RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY**

Recommended statements under this heading replicate positions covered in the LWVUS *Issues and Action*. Rather than repeat those, the relevant statements will be referenced and linked from the LWVUS document.

## **EDUCATION**

The LWVSC does not recommend at this time major revision of the teacher evaluation items, which were adopted after lengthy and contentious debate statewide.

*Greenville recommended a provision that charter schools not teach a religious point of view. This is not recommended because it is already covered under the SC Constitution of 1895.*

*Charleston recommended editing Statement 5 under Early Childhood through Grade 12 into two provisions. We believe it is clear as written.*

*Sumter recommended that professionally certified staff should be in the classroom for a minimum of 80% of the school year. This issue can be very complicated, and we believe would requires a study in order to make a recommendation,*

## **RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY (STUDY)**

A proposal was made for a study of the removal of Confederate monuments & flags from public spaces.

**Rationale: As part of racial equity, inclusion, and social justice, the League should advocate and support the removal of public displays of the Confederacy, especially monuments and flags. The SC Heritage Act should be challenged or its latest challenge supported by the League which would at least put the matter into local municipalities' jurisdiction and authority.** (Recommended by York)

*This is an important issue and a thoughtful and timely proposal. LWVSC does not recommend a study of this issue, however, because we believe the League already has strong positions, national and state, that address racial justice and equity and also the concept of home rule. In this case, home rule is a crucial aspect of advocacy and education, because the underlying problem in the SC Heritage Act is that it violates home rule and overrules local decision-making. LWVSC is an advocate for repeal of the Heritage Act on grounds of that violation, at which point local Leagues should address local monuments and buildings associated with the Confederacy.*

## **RECOMMENDED PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

At each state convention, we decide on priorities to guide the work of the next biennium. These are issues that we will emphasize to the extent possible in legislative lobbying, in the *SCVoter*, and at statewide meetings such as League Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD), and State Council/State Convention. These are the areas in which we encourage Local Leagues to hold informational programs and which we encourage them to emphasize when talking to their local legislators. However, we also recognize that we must be prepared to address both opportunities and threats in all of our areas of interest.

- Protection of Voter Rights, Voter Access (7)
- Redistricting (5)
- Education (3)



# Reports from State Board

## **Issues & Action -- Lynn Teague**

As Vice President for Issues and Action, I handle state level work on our positions and advocacy and function as liaison for litigation efforts; in addition, I serve as our lobbyist at the SC Statehouse.

The 2020 session of the General Assembly was abruptly truncated when the COVID-19 pandemic appeared and group gatherings effectively ended. However, the League did not become inactive. Deeply concerned for the potential of pandemic concerns to limit voting during the primary and general elections, LWVSC advocated intensively for changes needed to make voting safely accessible, and supported recommendations by the State Election Commission (SEC) for universal absentee voting and other measures. The General Assembly proved more flexible in the primary election than the general, unsurprisingly since in the primary legislators did not have to take into account concerns about advantages that might be given to one party or another.

General Assembly decisions about the general election were not made until September and did not include either a prohibition on absentee ballot signature matching or instructions to allow election offices to provide voters an opportunity to correct technical defects that might lead to rejection of their ballots. So, the League undertook litigation, with the assistance of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Debevoise and Plimpton. That litigation is still ongoing but some information can be provided now. The League's knowledge of inconsistencies between counties was confirmed. As an outcome of litigation, the SEC notified counties that signature matching on absentee ballots was prohibited, which was good, as was notice-and-cure, which was not good. This direction was given under authority of changes in election law made in 2014 that gave the SEC authority to ensure statewide consistency in interpretation of election law.

We must also note the importance of a very generous \$25,000 anonymous grant given to the League for public outreach leading to the 2020 general election. Given the complexity of South Carolina's absentee voting provisions and the significant reliance on internet connectivity for information about and access to absentee voting by mail, we focused on radio ads reaching minority audiences in areas with poor broadband access, for example in the I-95 Corridor. We encouraged in-person absentee voting by all who did not fall into high-risk categories associated with COVID-19, since in-person absentee voting does not entail the same risk of ballot rejection as voting by mail.

The 2020 elections laid the groundwork for legislation that was introduced for the 2021 session to alter the SEC and election procedures. I will not try to summarize the related bills here. I encourage readers to review the Making Democracy Work (MDW) Updates that have been issued. They are posted at <https://my.lwv.org/south-carolina/legislative-advocacy>.

The Legislative Advocacy web page also provides a list of bills being followed (if they become active) in the 2021 session, and copies of all written testimony offered on behalf of the League on a wide range of bills. As this is written, this consists of 13 testimony statements, averaging more than one a week during the 2021 session. Subjects range from abortion restrictions to federal constitutional conventions, from SEC composition to education curricula. By the time of Convention, this will have expanded.

The 2021 session is challenging for many reasons, but the League is having an impact.

### **Voters Service -- Jane Turner**

As Vice President for Voter Services, my responsibilities include coordinating voter registration and voter education information for activities that are carried out by the local Leagues as well as leading state initiatives regarding VOTE411, posting best practices re candidate forums and voter registration efforts on our website, and other related activities.

The period 2019-20 has been an intensely busy one for voter services. In 2019, the elections involved county councils, city councils, town councils, and mayors, as well as school boards. Our local Leagues held a number of candidate forums, even after the pandemic forced the format to change to virtual. Some of these were covered by local newspaper and television reporters. Most of the local Leagues did enter their races into VOTE411.

In 2019, voter registrations events were held for high school students, at community events, in libraries, at organization meetings, on National Voter Registration Day, and at Naturalization Ceremonies for new citizens in Charleston and Greer.

In 2020, at the LEAD meeting in Columbia on January 25, a Round Table Discussion on VOTE411 was held with members from seven local leagues participating. The group discussed elections for that year and planned which local leagues would handle our US Senate and US Representative races. The participants also shared ideas on how to do the computer entries for VOTE411, tips on working with candidates, and ways to promote VOTE411 use by voters. Everyone agreed that this group needed to continue working together, and so the group has continued, adding additional members, coordinating VOTE411 activities, and becoming a very successful state working group. After the June Primaries, a ZOOM meeting was held to review how VOTE411 was working and to share other posters and ideas from the local Leagues. Jane Turner and Barbara Zia facilitated the meeting, with Barbara Griffin as the ZOOM operator.

For the general election on November 3, the VOTE411 Teams covered both US Senate Races and all seven US Congressional Races. If South Carolina had not covered these races, National VOTE411 would have had to cover them, so we were thanked for doing

this.

In the fall 2020, SC VOTE411 Teams increased the use of billboards to inform voters where to find candidate information. Columbia, Charleston, and Greenville Leagues were able to get reduced rates on billboards for the Nov. 3 election. Beaufort also worked hard to get billboards; they were not successful but plan to try again.

Registering voters in 2020 was important because of the presidential election. LWV efforts were especially important for young people, since any person who would turn 18 before the November 3, 2020, general election could register to vote in both the primary and the general elections. This change will be permanent going forward. In high schools, there were reports of LWV groups registering 75 or more students using online registration. Registration events held at colleges and universities also saw large numbers of students registering to vote. After the COVID-19 pandemic forced closings and social distancing, voter registration became more difficult but it continued. Many events were held outdoors.

As the presidential election in November approached, local Leagues continued to register voters until the deadline and then encouraged them to vote absentee in person or by mail. With a donation from a friend of the LWVSC, the State Board was able to have 507 short radio spots run in several rural counties in the low country encouraging voter registration and then voting absentee in-person.

After the November 3 election, with encouragement from the ACLU, League members attended and reported on 11 County Vote Certification Meetings on November 6. This was an important service, and I hope Local Leagues will continue to attend these meetings.

### **Communications -- Jean Wood**

The Communications group includes important contributions from Linda Powers Bilanchone, as editor of the SC Voter, and Nancy Moore, as director for database technology. Linda checks that each article in the SC Voter is well written, free of spelling and grammatical errors, and is timely. She works with our layout and design editor, Christine Prado, who ensures a physically well laid out and attractive issue. Nancy Moore is responsible for maintaining the database for the Mailchimps and Action Alerts that come to members. Ever wonder how your name is in the Mail Chimp and your Senator and/or Representative's name and contact information is included in an Action Alert? How does it happen? Thanks to Nancy Moore and her database skills we are able to have personalized communications sent to members.

As Director for Communications, most of my responsibility has been moving to the MyLO platform, and then maintaining the LWVSC website. The state League website was very busy this past year. Even with the pandemic, work did not stop; there were changes and additions on a weekly basis.

One of the busiest areas was advocacy, especially during times when the legislature was active. The Making Democracy Work section under Advocacy was constantly changing. VP for Issues and Action, Lynn Teague, kept up with bills and accompanying testimony which she submitted to be posted regularly. Members were able to track legislation of interest and follow the League's testimony on a regular basis. We know the postings were closely followed, because if there was the slightest delay in postings, Lynn would get calls and emails from concerned members.

We also started generating reports from Google Analytics for the state board. Reports included Audience Overviews where page views, session lengths, and new users vs. return users are tabulated and graphed. The second report displays Acquisition Overview which shows the user's device types and states where traffic is coming from. The third report breaks down viewer behaviors. The popularity of pages is generated. There has been quite a bit of interest in these reports.

### **Member Services -- Joyce Franklin**

As Director for Member Services, I devoted a great deal of energy in the past two years to encouraging, nurturing, and helping launch our newest local League, LWV of York County. Teamwork was used effectively as a tool in this initiative; I along with the state co-presidents, other state board members, Spartanburg League members, and local residents worked together to embrace this formation. And, we will continue to work together to support the new League with the tools needed to prosper.

During the past two years, we did have a disappointment when our young League in Aiken dissolved. But we have retained several members-at-large (MALs) in Aiken who have continued to work hard for the League, especially in voter services and VOTE411. Currently, we are looking at South Carolina geographically, and as a team we will strive to form more new MAL Units and local Leagues. All League members are needed to help seek, identify, and embrace new members. Family, friends, and acquaintances are invaluable to this effort.

I also encourage all board members and state LWV members to submit their LWV stories to Storyboard — a LWVUS project to collect personal recollections of how members came to be involved with the League and what it means to them.

LWVSC continues to grow, with statewide membership now totaling 1129, and we have every expectation of continuing to show robust impact in our mission of making democracy work.

### **Redistricting -- Matt Saltzman**

As Director for Redistricting, I am responsible for coordinating the state league's efforts to advocate for fair district maps at the state level (including Congressional districts and

state house and senate districts) as well as at the local level. There are two complementary aspects to that advocacy: (1) education and outreach and (2) technology for drawing and assessing maps. For the education and outreach aspect, I co-chair along with Shayna Howell (off-board, Charleston League) a working group on redistricting that was established following the 2019 LWVSC convention. On the technology side, I have a team of graduate students and researchers who are training on the software for mapping and developing methods and computer codes to analyze and draw maps. John Ruoff of the state AARP, a veteran of South Carolina redistricting processes, is also working with our group.

The national League has made redistricting a priority in this round, following the massive gerrymandering of the maps a decade ago and the finding in 2019 by the Supreme Court that political gerrymandering is not justiciable in federal court. Although they started rather late, considering the timeline that legislative and legal processes require, LWVUS has offered significant support to state leagues engaged in various strategies for ensuring that this and future redistricting rounds produce fair results. Toward that end, South Carolina has received two rounds of grants from the national People-Powered Fair Maps (PPFM) initiative. In addition, PPFM is making licenses and training for the widely used mapping software, Maptitude for Redistricting, available to state leagues. Maptitude for Redistricting is the software used by our legislature for their mapping efforts. In exchange for the grants and the license, the state league will be conducting public education and outreach activities and drawing maps to submit to the legislature in the public comment period.

Up through last year, our efforts were directed toward support for a bill in the state legislature that called for the creation of an independent commission to draw the state maps, but the pandemic brought an end to that process in the previous legislative session and made passage (which was already considered difficult) impossible to achieve before the next round of maps would need to be drawn this year. Another effect of the pandemic has been to delay the actual mapping process. A year ago, we would have expected the legislature to be drawing new districts right about now. Instead Census data will now be released to the states in September, which will mean a special fall session for the legislature to draw new district maps.

Some highlights: In March we partnered with the SC Press Association for a “Redistricting for Journalists” presentation. This was an opportunity to delve into details of the process and give reporters a thorough grounding in a topic that can be difficult to cover. In addition, many local Leagues and LWVSC collaborated with LWV Charleston Area for the statewide Good Governance session on redistricting, which included national and state experts as well as Senator Chip Campsen, who offered his legislative perspective. And local Leagues have seized on the opportunity to share findings on county and municipal redistricting, with an eye towards helping inform their process with LWV-recommended best practices.

As we head into the spring and summer, community education will continue, but we will also begin work with our Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC), which will help inform

our own internal map-drawing process. John Ruoff and my team will be drawing maps (John from a more traditional perspective and the team using computer models); we will draw on expertise from our RAC to analyze the maps prior to submitting them to the SC Legislature for consideration.

### **National Issues and Action -- Janie Shipley**

The position of the National Issues Director has existed for 2 ½ years, having been created by the Board of LWVSC in the fall of 2018. This position is a liaison between LWVUS and LWVSC.

As Director for National Issues and Action, I alert the state board and local Leagues to LWVUS issues such as

- priority legislation: e.g. For the People Act, HR1/S1
- public policy issues: e.g. census, DC statehood
- LWVUS resources: e.g. webinars, toolkits, print publications, digital resources, VOTE411 promotion, biennial convention promotion
- grants from LWVUS to local Leagues: e.g. voter registration, naturalization ceremonies, DEI expansion
- resources from other organizations with whom LWVUS collaborates

I also receive individual requests from local Leagues about national issues and connect the local League with the appropriate LWVUS staff member.

A major focus of the National Issues Director has been to facilitate development of the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) program in SC. Diversity has been placed on a par with non-partisanship, as defining characteristics of the League. The DEI program was established by LWVUS in recognition that the League of Women Voters must do more to ensure that all persons feel welcome and included in the work of the League. The LWVUS program supports the efforts of local Leagues in establishing a focus on DEI; LWVUS staff includes a coach (a Shur Fellow) who works primarily with a state coordinator who, in turn, communicates with local Leagues. LWVSC began our participation in the DEI program in Spring 2019. One of the first actions taken by the state Board in Spring '19 was to adopt a diversity statement to affirm our commitment to DEI which was subsequently posted on the LWVSC website.

Charmaine Clowney, JD, member of the Columbia League, assumed the role of state coordinator for DEI in 2019 and served in this position for the following twenty months. Martha Pint from Kansas is the Shur Fellow assigned by LWVUS to consult with South Carolina. Initial activities included conducting a statewide assessment (all Leagues participated) then inviting all SC Leagues to complete an action plan whereby they would define their intentions to engage in purposeful action to advance the concepts of diversity, equity and inclusion. In early 2020, good progress was being made; then the Coronavirus pandemic hit, and attention was diverted. In September 2020, meetings were held by video conference to support those Leagues who had not completed their action plans. By November 2020, ten of the then-twelve local Leagues in SC had

completed their action plans.

In late fall 2020, Hannah Parker of the Florence League took the lead on the statewide DEI program and joined the board of LWVSC as Director for DEI. Her first official duties included presenting an update on DEI at the annual LEAD video-conference sponsored by LWVSC in January 2021, and meeting by video conference with local League DEI chairs in February 2021. Hannah has resumed the monthly conferences with the LWVUS Shur Fellow and is regularly consulting with the state board, reminding them of issues like diversity of suppliers/vendors and selection of meeting venues as important considerations in advancing our commitment to DEI.

### **Database Technology -- Nancy Moore**

#### Purpose and Scope

As Director for Database Technology, I maintain and target a current list of LWVSC members and affiliates in MailChimp for organizational communication needs, such as newsletters and calls to convention, and for action alerts to increase advocacy, such as lobbying for voter access legislation and other bills.

#### Achievements

To foster and speed advocacy, I have added to almost all member records the individual's contact information for Congressional and SC Statehouse districts. After Lynn Teague, our lobbyist, defines the timing of action alerts and the approach of the message, Christe McCoy-Lawrence, a co-president, writes and formats the message, and I target it to the desired audience.

This method allows us to begin advocacy with the power of constituents at the subcommittee level and proceed through each level of the legislative process. Members immediately receive their individual legislator contact information (name, phone number, email address, even home address during the pandemic) without having to take several steps on the web to locate it, and, thus, should be more likely to act. They receive alerts calling for action only when their legislators are relevant, reducing action fatigue and spamming. This enhancement gives LWVSC a capacity possessed by only a handful of other state leagues, but without the approximate \$2000+ yearly cost for specialized advocacy platforms.

For internal organizational communications, we can target email audiences by membership, local league, zip code, or county of residence. Examples have included giving the local contact information for the county registration board, and alerting all within a large geographical area of a key hearing.

Our success, at low cost, depends upon database skills, harmonious and speedy teamwork, and good judgment of state board members, but most important, action by local members.

## Challenges

Provided that our members do call or email their legislators, our influence is stunted by the concentration of members/constituents in a few districts. We lack an action threshold of LWV members for more than half the SC House districts. Hence, the current state board's plans to spur advocates in our geographical deserts.

We also need greater depth of database skills, identified and trained, as backup. We must shift some of the work to paid staff to sustain these or else, unwisely, limit our leadership entirely to retired directors who essentially work full-time on these tasks. Currently, all our attempts to learn about and influence legislation start with a volunteer and experienced lobbyist. We depend upon a board member who serves as co-president but also has experience as a writer for electronic communications.

Volunteer database skills are replaceable, but not easily. We can purchase an advocacy platform to reduce the need for skill, but even that expense will require training while limiting flexibility. The Coronavirus situation has required an extraordinary restructuring of 1/3 of our database this year. No national platform, at any price, could cope. Hopefully, such dramatic needs will abate. After investigating three platforms now used by other state leagues, I would recommend Congress Plus by SoftEdge as a possible future investment.

In any case, these challenges make a case for robust fundraising.

## **Natural Resources -- Ted Volskay**

As the LWVSC Natural Resources Issue Specialist, I have led the state's Natural Resources Work Group (NRWG), composed of representatives of nine local Leagues: Georgetown, Columbia, Horry County, Florence, Charleston, Clemson, Hilton Head Island-Bluffton, Spartanburg, and Greenville. This group has engaged in periodic and informal communications, focusing on environmental legislation being considered by the 124th SC General Assembly, including legislative updates and legislative action alerts. Group communications have also included (1) invitations to participate in Conservation Voters of South Carolina (CVSC) meetings open to general membership and (2) general exchanges of ideas pertaining to SC environmental issues.

The LWVSC is a member of the South Carolina Conservation Coalition, which is administered by the Conservation Voters of South Carolina (CVSC). The CVSC is a nonpartisan organization that lobbies the SC General Assembly to take positions on pending environmental legislation that will be protective of SC's environment and promote sustainability. As LWVSC Natural Resources Specialist and leader of the LWVSC Natural Resources Work Group (NRWG), I have represented the LWVSC at CVSC meetings (conducted virtually during the pandemic).

The CVSC, and therefore the NRWG, has placed emphasis on the following environmental legislation:



Support for bill H.3979, which would limit the ability of Homeowners Associations to prohibit or place restrict rooftop solar on residences

Opposition to bill S.525, which would allow special exemptions from the Solid Waste Management Act for pyrolysis facilities that convert plastic refuse to fuel and other byproducts.

Support for bills H.3514 and S.219, which would require the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to develop regulations that would limit the concentration of PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) in drinking water.

In addition, at the urging of a fellow League of Women Voters member, the NRWG promoted awareness of environmental problems caused by plastics. This initiative, a quiz on plastics recycling based on the Public Broadcasting Service Frontline documentary "Plastics War," was rolled out and included in the January 23, 2020, LEAD meeting handouts. The quiz was later forwarded to local Leagues for distribution to all members.

Potential 2021-2022 issues:

Continued initiatives to reduce plastics consumption and disposal.

- "Green" infrastructure design (walking/biking paths; electric car recharging stations).
- Development of South Carolina Climate Change Action Plan (CVSC Energy Eagles).
- Establishment of South Carolina Office of Resilience (SC Resilience Revolving Fund Act of 2020).
- Development by the NRWG of a strong Natural Resources environmental policy statement for 2021-23 to be endorsed by local Leagues, approved by the LWVSC Board, and posted on the LWVSC website.
- Encouraging the LWVSC Board to include links to national LWV environmental positions that reinforce and strengthen current LWVSC Program & Action Agenda Natural Resource positions.

### **Archives -- Anne Mellen**

As LWVSC Archivist, I work with the LWV archives held in the Political Collections at the University of South Carolina's Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library. I also collect current documents related to LWVSC activities and deposit them in the archives so that the LWV's ongoing work is well documented for future generations.

Two years ago, in collaboration with the library staff, I undertook a special project to review our extensive archival materials and select 100-150 documents that especially reflect the history of the League and the breadth of issues it addresses. I started by going through the 40 plus boxes in the Political Collections (materials starting in 1947)

as well as a large box from an earlier period (1920-1932) that is kept in USC's South Caroliniana Library.

The archiving project itself included several phases. First, researching and choosing the 100-150 items; second, attempting to fill in gaps; and finally creating a digital display to help researchers and interested parties learn about LWV in South Carolina. The initial goal was to have at least part of the digital display available by mid-2020 in time for the centennial of the 19th Amendment and the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters. By the end of 2019, I had put together a Powerpoint for a 100 year history.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic really slowed things down. The USC South Carolina Political Collections has been closed to visitors at least since March 2020. Luckily, the staff has been hard at work. They have taken my 100 year LWV History Powerpoint and scanned every picture within it (my draft presentation had all of its pictures taken by my cellphone camera). The new pictures will be much clearer. I am awaiting these scans so that I can complete the update of my 100+ page presentation.

During 2020, I have accepted and then mailed to the Political Collections all of the archival material that I have received to date. I know that Keller Barron has recently given all of her papers to the Political Collections because of her move to a new residence. Several other individual members of the LWV-Columbia Area Vote411 committee will be archiving their papers from previous years in the near future as well.

I am certainly willing to accept more archival material and have been recently contacted by at least one member of LWV-Columbia Area about doing so.

The LWV of South Carolina has been an impressive force in the political and public arena in South Carolina for many years, and its work needs to become better known. I enjoy the opportunity to help to bring this about.

## Local League Reports

This year LWVSC began an ongoing project to collect data that will help us measure the health and impact of the League of Women Voters in South Carolina. Twelve of our thirteen Local Leagues responded to a survey from which the following facts, among others, were drawn:

1. Nine local Leagues participated in In-person voter registration drives in spite of the pandemic. About 925 citizens were registered (not including the very large number who registered online), and approximately 5800 were contacted.
2. Seven local Leagues participated in VOTE411. 267 races were covered and at least 44,719 visited VOTE411 statewide.
3. Seven local Leagues held online candidate forums.
4. Seven local Leagues reported participating in Get-Out-the-Vote activities.
5. 34 LWV volunteers statewide served as poll workers.
6. 34 LWV volunteers statewide served as election or certification observers.
7. Four local Leagues maintained Observer Corps, with 26 volunteers participating.

Many local Leagues reported that they did not track some or most of the data requested, so these figures are incomplete. In the future, we hope to standardize data that each League will agree to track throughout the year, which will provide more thorough indications as time goes by of the strength and variety of League activity in South Carolina.

Below are narrative reports submitted by each League.

### **LWV of Beaufort County -- Jane Caffrey**

The League of Women Voters Beaufort SC Area had great plans for 2020 after an exciting February Soiree Event, celebrating our 100th National birthday and 3rd birthday of our local league. Many of us were dressed up as suffragists, dining on delicious appetizers and beverages to hear from two of our state Senators on the ERA. We also launched our new MYLO website that very same month.

We had planned a wonderful program for March, "She Is Me," with Guest Speaker Anne Christensen Pollitzer about her Great Grandmother Abbey Holmes Christensen - Folklorist, Educator, Suffragist. We sadly made the decision to postpone the in-person meeting due to COVID. Other plans were for National Earth Day, for our April meeting to show the - Movie 'The Human Element' and have a panel discussion. We were looking forward to kicking off our newly established partnership with the Pan Hellenic council at our May Annual Meeting, for a "Chat" and "Chew" to discuss local issues and common goals.

As we all were homebound looking for ways to reconnect, we took some time to contemplate our next steps and quickly became familiar with Zoom. Fortunately, the League National convention in June provided a wealth of resources and motivation to

conduct our meetings online. Before we knew it, we were having our first virtual Zoom for our annual meeting late June. It was there we shared accomplishments, did our best to refocus and voted in our new Board members. We spent the summer retreating, learning from each other and setting new goals, as most board members were fairly new to the League.

The gift of being a young, new League of Women Voters organization is that we never knew what we “Couldn’t” do. And never was that more important than during this 2020 Election Year, the year of the League's Centennial celebration. We are, in so many ways, “The Little Chapter that Could”!

With only 85 members, and not all who are able to actively participate, this League set a very strategic focused goals for Voter Education, Voter Outreach and Access.

Various initiatives included: Community Relations Outreach via Voter Registration and Census Help Drives, following school bus routes delivering lunches from the BC School District, Church Food Drives, as well as organizing weekly tables at the Piggly Wiggly and Food Lion from August through October. The League also invited candidates to submit their bios and answers to questions for Vote411 Voter Guides. The Beaufort League helped the League of Women Voters Vote411.org website reach over 6 million views to get information about voting all over the country for a record-breaking election cycle. Voters viewed more than 37 million pages in both English and Spanish.

Partnering with the LWV of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area, the League of Women Voters Beaufort Area held various Beaufort County virtual Zoom Candidate Forums. The League also developed a Voter Ambassador Program, which provided voter education about the Early Voting and Absentee Ballot process. Dovetailing with the 2020 election season was the 2020 Census. Our outreach efforts for the Election and Census completions consisted of meetings with the Beaufort County Board of Registration and Elections, informational videos, socially distanced in-person interactions with the community, postcards, flyers, signage, and social media. We arranged with Palmetto Breeze to provide “Rides to the Polls,” a service for disabled persons and others to request safe roundtrip rides from home to the absentee voting site at no cost to individuals.

840 volunteer hours were given by the Beaufort League members and partners in Getting out the Vote for their Give a Day for Democracy Campaign. Under the direction of Voter Services and Education Director, Bernadette Hampton, League volunteers reached over 3000 people, registered 325 voters, not including those who registered online, sent over 1000 postcards and provided census help and information to over 900 households.

Even through the stresses that 2020 has brought, we are excited to start fresh in 2021. We have already enjoyed engaging the Beaufort community on our 3 programs this year so far on DEI, Reconstruction, and SC League History & Current Focus. We are looking forward to rolling up our sleeves to prepare for a rich set of programs and

priorities, re-engaging our members, getting back to working on our committees and most importantly, Making democracy work and Empowering voters!

### **LWV of the Charleston Area -- Barbara Griffin**

The League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area is proud of its efforts in 2020. The majority of its 250+ members were engaged in advancing League projects and initiatives throughout the year despite the limitations brought on by the global pandemic.

- Over 70 in-person and 30 virtual voter services events;
- 15 candidate forums for over 60 races in three counties with 192 candidates;
- record use of VOTE411 and candidate guides;
- 15 public policy events
- actively attended book club
- expansive Observer Corps engagement; and more

That said, the editorial reprinted below by South Carolina's major newspaper, The Post and Courier, is a source of great pride and inspiration to the Charleston League and, in a very real way, should be to all South Carolina local Leagues.

#### POST AND COURIER [OPINION](#)

Editorials represent the institutional view of the newspaper. They are written and edited by the editorial staff, which operates separately from the news department. Editorial writers are not involved in newsroom operations.

#### ***Editorial: The Valuable Role Charleston's League of Women Voters Played In Election***

*You probably saw or at least knew about the debates that ETV and The Post and Courier sponsored this fall in the U.S. Senate and 1st Congressional District races. And you're probably familiar with our news department's extensive reporting on those contests.*

*But what you might have missed — although we hope you didn't — was the valuable role that the League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area played in providing debates, conversations with candidates and written candidate questionnaires for legislative and local races.*

*The League live-streamed 15 debates, most featuring multiple races, between candidates for solicitor, county council, school board and S.C. House and Senate races in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties. It also hosted a half-dozen "conversations" when only one of the candidates for an office agreed to participate. Local chapters in other parts of the state launched similar but smaller efforts.*

*This was particularly useful because we in the media sometimes get fixated on those up-ballot races and don't do as good a job as we should covering the races for the*

*Legislature, county council, school boards and county courthouse, which can easily involve dozens of candidates in a single county.*

*The questions the League asked in the debates and on its questionnaires tended to focus on the organization's priority issues — not all of which are important to all voters — but they still provided a useful opportunity to compare candidates side-by-side. In many cases, those comparisons simply weren't available anywhere else.*

*There's no shortage of organizations that work to "educate" voters, and most of them are, like the League of Women Voters, officially nonpartisan. But they generally veer into advocacy — and, increasingly, all the way over into propaganda — rather than sticking to information.*

*Certainly, the League has its political preferences, and it tends to skew toward the political left.*

*But unlike most organizations that get involved in political campaigns, a central principle for the League of Women Voters — an organization with male and female members that is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year — is studying issues. It's through the study process that it determines which positions it will support — not the other way around.*

*That model — study first, then decide — helps explain its active role in providing information to help our community vet candidates.*

*It's a true service, and one we hope the League of Women Voters will provide for a second 100 years.*

**BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF**  
*Updated Nov 9, 2020*

### **LWV of the Clemson Area -- Ruth Reed, Michael Wood**

Voter services chair Cheryl Lee distributed packets of voter registration forms and information for high-school teachers to use during the pandemic. Clemson University dean of undergraduate student engagement Bridget Trogden invited LWVCA to participate in increasing student civic awareness; the University has taken major steps in ensuring that students are registered to vote and know how to do so. Once operations are back to normal, there may be other ways that the local LWV can be helpful in efforts to involve students; this link is a useful one.

Vote411 chair Eleanor Hare and her committee ensured that candidates filled in information pages in Vote411. Persistence was required. Eleanor wrote a "job description" of how to do this for future use and trained a committee in the operation of Vote411.

Elizabeth Vogt and Linda Gahan ran five virtual candidate forums (Districts 3 and 6

state legislators, Clemson mayor, city council, and a replacement council member). We think that holding virtual forums or at least a blend of virtual and in-person is preferable because the forum can be recorded for future viewing and because questions can be submitted easily online.

Shari Jung and Janet Marsh started a group to help get people to fill out the US Census forms. The group planned to work to get off-campus Clemson University students to participate by distributing flyers, door-hangers in student apartment complexes, and putting up posters, but the pandemic lock-down meant those actions were not useful.

The group then turned to investigate how they could be helpful to county election offices in making voter registration and voting itself easier. Oconee County members served as volunteers to man the drop box for ballots in Oconee County. Members were in place to respond to the state request for observers at certification events; we had 2 members at each of the three county certification events. The group found the staff of the three election offices to be cordial, professional, and accessible.

The group SAFE (Secure, Accessible, and Fair Elections) decided to continue to monitor election and related voter suppression/support legislation.

Ruth Reed and Toni King coordinated the efforts of Sheila Crawford, LWVCA member and NAACP chair for Pickens County, to phone or send a postcard to Clemson area residents who were listed in a national database as not registered. The list was inadequate, as almost none of the data was correct. However, that information is useful, and the Pickens County NAACP will continue to pursue the matter. The LWVCA will help as needed.

Michael Wood spearheaded the DEI effort, overseeing the submission of a DEI plan to the state. Our first public effort was holding a discussion of Caste by Isabel Wilkerson (four biweekly sessions, one at 1:30 pm and the other at 7 pm.) We are in the process of evaluating the details and plan to host another discussion shortly. We hope that this process will continue for several books and will broaden to include other organizations. Carolyn Bishop-McLeod had recently replaced Michael as chair of the group.

We now have chairpersons for environment (Ellie Taylor), health care (Sandy Land), and education (Jane Powell) working groups. Each of the three has expertise in the topic of their working group. Ellie has already tackled the plastics pyrolysis bill before the state legislature, including discussion with our state legislator, Thomas Alexander.

A major challenge has been how to manage communications, especially how to communicate with the public. We have an excellent Facebook person and have recently recruited a webmaster. Moving our webpage to MyLo was accomplished by Alice Flower, who helped new member Allison Ranson set up as webmaster. We now need to coordinate editing and updating the material and assessing how best to see that Allison gets material to post in a timely manner.

## **LWV of the Columbia Area -- Laura Woliver**

The LWV Columbia Area, as evident in the Annual Survey Form, has been effective and engaged in “Making Democracy Work” in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In every Survey category, the LWVCA documents projects and initiatives which have enhanced the local and state league’s stellar reputation for nonpartisan, informed, fact-based public policy discussions, voter participation efforts, government accountability, oversight, and advocacy on most of the issues listed in the league publication “Impact on Issues”.

Many of the LWVCA efforts and successes have been with the cooperation of other civil society organizations, other local Leagues, and the state League. Located in the state capital means that the LWVCA is also frequently called upon to support the state League’s advocacy at the legislature and with state agencies. Working with Lynn Teague has been a very gratifying experience for many members of the LWVCA. Our members show up and offer support to several nonprofits in the capital area such as: Black Lives Matter, WREN, Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, Historic Columbia, the AARP, City of Women, the Gender & Women’s Studies Program at USC, and the Greater Columbia Community Action Council, to name a few. Several of these groups joined the state and Columbia Area League for a silent vigil on the state Capital steps on August 26th to celebrate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment.

Columbia members have informed public opinion through radio, television, and print media interviews. Members have written letters to the editor, articles about the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and the LWV for magazines, blogs, and other outlets. Local League leaders have worked on state league committees and Board of Directors. People have written articles and reviews for The Voter.

Our own newsletter, League Lines, is a highly regarded, professional, and informative monthly publication. The newsletter informs and inspires our members. The editors announce nonpartisan events and educational opportunities which stretch and strengthen the connections members have with other groups and activists in Columbia. The newsletter and our public programs also promote the DEI efforts of the national, state, and local leagues.

### LWVCA Challenges and Future Goals:

The first goal is to continue work on DEI issues. Much of that will maintain focus on DEI in our leadership, membership, programming, actions, and publications. Secondly, the LWVCA is sometimes plagued by paperwork, as are most nonprofits. We have a steady turnover in leadership in part because of the overwhelming level of work that periodically occurs.

Smoother recruitment, training, and retention of volunteers within our large and strong membership is a future goal for the Columbia Area league. If progress is made in spreading the work around the organization more regularly, some of the stress on



leaders would be alleviated.

A third goal is enhancing our social media presence even more than the remarkable growth our website, Facebook, and other venues saw this year. A fourth goal is to become a fully 501 (C) 3 organization with all the benefits expected from that status. A fifth goal is to update all our brochures and booklets regarding nonpartisan practices, DEI, and other issues the national and state leagues have raised.

During a difficult time for any organization given the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Columbia Area League has grown in membership, stature, and respect; helped make positive differences for many voters through voter registration efforts, informational campaigns, and voter protection efforts. The Columbia Area League has a very strong contingent of hard working, smart, and compassionate people on the Board of Directors, and within all the Committees. From March 2020 to March 2021 the LWVCA has “kept the faith” and then some.

### **LWV of Darlington County -- Barbara Carroway**

Under the new leadership of Barbara Carroway, the LWV of Darlington is active and on the move, ready to meet our challenges and work for democracy and the rights of all people, as League women and men have done for over 100 years. Our past President, Dr. Sheila Haney, did an excellent job, and we are proud that her LWVSC history book, *In Our Shoes*, was published last summer.

During our current year, we had a forum of the candidates for the Darlington County School Board, and met by zoom for our monthly meetings. During meetings, we heard from Dr. Tim Newman, the superintendent of the Darlington County School District; from Sheila Haney on her book *In Her Shoes*; from Charmaine Clowney on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and from Toy Linda Smith, Women in Leadership coach, for women’s history month. A program with Shannon Copes on the Pee Dee Land Trust and its conservation projects is upcoming this year.

During this year our membership has increased 35 percent. We will continue with our voter registration activities and encourage everyone to use VOTE411. Our members have participated in diverse activities of LWVSC and programs offered virtually statewide by the Charleston Area LWV and other S.C. local Leagues. We’ve been busy even with the COVID-19 and will continue to work on voters’ rights, redistricting reform, election system management, and more.

### **LWV of the Florence Area -- Melissa Lewis**

Prior to March 2020, we had one in person meeting with Florence District 1 School Superintendent which was well attended. After that we focused on candidate forums.

Here is a description of those events: The Florence League held six Candidate Forums during the last election cycle. We collaborated with several members of the Florence

County Republican Party Executive Committee to organize the events. The venue for the first five forums was the Staybridge Inns of Florence, a space graciously donated free of charge by the hotel owners. The use of the auditorium for the sixth forum was graciously supplied by Old Ebenezer Baptist Church of Florence. Our moderator was Charlene Wages, Vice President for Administration and Planning at Francis Marion University and Florence League Secretary. Judy Kern, our Voter Service person, and Suzanne La Rochelle, a new member, helped organize these events.

J.Wyleek Cummings and Michael Page did the live streaming and videography for the LWV and GOP respectively. The forums were broadcast live, and they were available for subsequent viewing on our Florence League Facebook page, as well as on Florence County GOP Facebook pages. We offered the information to the Democratic party as well but we are not certain if it was used.

In June, we hosted only Democratic candidates for the Primary election because there was no Republican inter-party opposition in those races. There were 1,808 views posted for that forum.

Before the general election, in late September and early October, we hosted six bipartisan forums, one each for county council, city council, county sheriff, and mayor. We had a total of 9,600 views posted for these forums.

Our final candidate forum, which was held in January 2021, was for a special election, which was held to fill two vacated city council seats.

We hope to do more forums, both in-person and virtually, to reach more people and may consider having all meetings in the future using these formats.

### **LWV of Georgetown County -- Linda Cimadon**

The year began with well-attended events for our 100th anniversary, and a proclamation recognizing that from our county council.

Just when we got a youth voter registration program set up in all four high schools in the county, under a LWVUS grant, the pandemic shutdown happened. We had completed the first engagement, but were to be back at that same school the following week to present a slideshow on the importance of voting. We had tentative dates scheduled at the other schools, but never got another chance to go back into the schools, and there were no school events to attend.

Members tried registering voters wherever they could, which we would have done anyway, and brainstormed about how else to help. Some members proposed that we offer to pick up absentee ballots and take them to the elections office. We thought it was something to do to be helpful and people would trust it because of who we are. We had a few new members who joined because they wanted to work on that project. When LWVSC said we could not do that, some of those new members quit.

The grant office at LWVUS said we could use the grant funds for any type of voter education or registration activity, so we decided to buy ads on a local Facebook news page, the same page's website, and a local weekly print paper. We also had donations for those ads because the grant money was not enough. We used the ads to push for voter registration and how to do so until the deadline, how to apply for absentee ballots and when, assuring people their voting place would be safe and their vote secure, and the importance of voting in general.

At the same time, various members were out trying to offer voter registration wherever possible, and got run off the county farmers market where we had registered voters for years. Wal-Mart stopped allowing it after they had to monitor entry at the front. A few registrations were obtained at a Black Lives Matter rally and a scattering of other events but no one kept a tally.

We also had members who worked at the elections office assisting voters at the absentee in person site and in logging in absentee mail ballots and anything else requested by the paid staff.

All of those efforts were while not meeting because of the virus. Now like many others we are Zooming for the foreseeable future and looking to have some input into local redistricting.

### **LWV of Greenville County -- Lawson Wetli, Susan Bell**

#### **Voter Registration**

- Outdoor voter registration events with Upstate Pride & Black Lives Matter.
- Trained Goodwill Industries staff to register voters or update existing registrations and provided materials.
- Created and shared ready-to-print bulletin insert with voter registration information.
- Shared over 1,000 business cards that include a QR code to take people to online voter registration or Vote411 that are printed in Spanish and English.
- Identified, created and circulated a database about, and coordinated efforts to contact, local faith communities, to offer assistance in voter registration efforts. Created materials – a voting information resource sheet, plus information pieces on absentee voting and how to get a voter ID card – and made them available virtually to our local network of organizations.
- League co-president, Lawson Wetli, participated in a number of local events that included voter- engagement/registration/GOTV elements. She appeared on many panels, interviews and podcasts, made presentations on voting and elections.
- Organized 9 high schools to hold voter registration events for students.
- Connected with local colleges and universities offering voter registration materials and information.
- Joined the Young Voter Coalition 8/18/20 to engage in socially distanced in-

person voter registration and GOTV efforts.

- Virtual voter registration on Jazzy Report 7/14/20.

#### VOTE411.ORG

- Covered 3 counties – Greenville, Greenwood and Laurens
- Funded 7 billboards around Greenville for the 6 weeks prior to the general election to promote Vote411.
- Participation was 13,701 total and up 116% over the months of September and October 2020 vs 2018.

#### Candidate Forums

- Conducted three virtual candidate forums for Greenville County School Board. 756 views on YouTube plus approximately 125 who viewed them live.

#### Get Out the Vote Initiatives

- Training for Second Chance Justice Collaborative focused on voter registration and GOTV for people impacted by incarceration.
- Part of a coalition of nonpartisan groups focused on voter registration and engagement.
- A number of League members participated in a NAACP-led effort to support voters at in-person absentee voting locations and to drive voters to the polls.
- Provided GOTV-related information that was included in 600+ food deliveries.
- Worked with community leaders to provide sample ballot information for underserved local areas.

#### Participation in Support of the Election

- Many members participated as Poll Managers or worked to process absentee ballots.
- Two members attended the election certification meeting.
- Presented a letter of commendation to the staff of the Greenville County Voter Registration and Elections Office for their efforts to ensure safe and fair elections.

#### DEI & Racial Justice

- Created a DEI plan.
- Virtual book club using Ibram X. Kendi's bestseller *How to be an Antiracist* 11/17/20 and Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* 3/23/21.

#### Member & Public Education

- Co-sponsorship of FICO credit education event 6/19/20.
- "Seeking Justice" presentation by The Second Chance Collaborative on its work to reinstate voting rights to citizens returning from incarceration 8/4/20.
- Message to OLLI (life-long learning institute at Furman) about absentee voting 9/15/20.
- Dr. JD Zahnizer discussed Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot (virtual) 9/9/20. Co-sponsored by the AAUW.
- Participation in Warehouse Theater panel discussion following *My Fair Lady*

presentation 9/16/20.

- Presentation to African-American Male Scholars Initiative at Greenville Technical College on voting 9/30/20.
- Participation in Upstate Mobility Alliance podcast 10/9/20.
- Presentation to Hispanic Alliance about voting/elections 10/12/20.
- Redistricting presentation to Greenville Co. Democratic Party 1/14/21.
- Virtual forum featuring five women in municipal government who discussed what prompted them to run, what the campaign process was like and what the job involves. 3/4/21.
- Co-sponsored Good Governance Symposium with Charleston Area League.

#### Interviews and Op-Eds

- Op-Ed Greenville News “Why safe voting in November should be a top SC priority” 8/21/20.
- WSPA piece “Deadlines as Election Season Approaches” 10/5/20.
- Fox Carolina news “Simpsonville woman shares thoughts on voting after felony conviction” 10/28/20.

### **LWV of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton County Area -- Patricia Felton-Montgomery**

As stated by our League’s Voter Chairs, this year was one of the busiest in our local League’s history. Each month more and more members joined, fundraising — in collaboration with LWVSC, the 100th year anniversary, and other fundraising — brought in approximately \$18,000.00. Our League opened an online bookstore -- <https://bookshop.org/shop/lwvhhi-ba> --- in support of independent bookstores that have been struggling and to support member reading of iconic books on Racial Justice, Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and Women’s Suffrage. Other local Leagues used our bookstore for book club and program needs. We initiated successful partnerships with several community groups increasing the diversity of collaboration by LWVHHI-BA as never before. We have also increased our presence and recognition throughout our community.

As indicated in this report's other sections, we're proud of taking part in 11 Action Alerts which involved a significant portion of our members and partners. Not only did members make calls to state and federal legislators, but they also emailed and wrote snail letters to them. While the outcomes were not always what we wanted, the legislators were aware of our LWVHHI-BA voices and our power when combined with that of LWVSC.

Our Voter Services Committee was out front in these Action Alert efforts and kept voters abreast of ever- changing voting rules through the distribution of 2000 door hangers with pertinent voting registration and education information and four issues of a Community Voting Bulletin published for the first time from September – November 2020 distributed throughout HHI and Bluffton in gated communities, at community meetings and festivals, at food bank and school district food delivery sites, and by businesses. Indeed, another first was the cooperation of management teams of gated

communities in letting our volunteers knock on the doors of residents and meet with them to share voter registration and education and CENSUS 2020 information. Voter support was provided in October at early voting locations with the long-lines and warm weather by 25 League volunteers handing out 1200 bottles of water, answering questions about required/not required witnesses, and other unclear voting procedures. In cooperation with Lynn Teague, our State Issues & Advocacy Committee chose these policy areas and legislation as targets for advocacy with our SC Senator and our three SC Representatives: redistricting, voting suppression, hate crimes, firearms, employment equity, health issues, racial justice, criminal justice reform, dark money issues and education legislation (in collaboration with our own Education Committee).

The Education Committee continued to monitor meetings of the Beaufort County School District Board, with attention to governance issues and to the existing achievement gap between white students and students of color. Members have also been tracking the work of the Citizen-Led Oversight Committee and the validity of expenditures and project timelines following our League's support of the 2019 bond referendum. The public is counting on us for this follow-up.

Finally, and most importantly has been the attention of the Communications Committee to print-visibility of the League this past year as evidenced by eight LTEs printed on such issues as voters' rights, mail-in voting, expansion of absentee ballots, recruitment of poll workers and managers, the ERA, 2020 Census Day, the For the People Act, and hate crime legislation. The letters were written by our president, vice president, voter services chair, and local League members. Updates to our website by our webmaster have resulted in making the site more user-friendly with highlighted feature articles, events, and Action Alerts. Designs and imagery continued to intentionally reflect our League's emphasis on DEI. The library of League event videos expanded to include all of our webinar meetings. This past year we also saw an increase in collaboration with other SC Leagues, mainly those of Beaufort, Charleston, and Columbia, with which we shared online programs.

We are therefore proud of our accomplishments this past year, especially given the pandemic which limited in-person meetings and direct work with all members and community.

### **LWV of Horry County -- Valerie Moliterno**

Our newly formed (from a Member at Large Unit) LWV Horry County organization changed from a traditional cadre of officers to a leadership team while struggling to become a 501C3 and all the paperwork that that entailed. This required a lot of rethinking about what we were doing and what we might be able to accomplish with our new responsibilities. In other words, we moved from a loosely organized structure to a highly organized, responsible entity.

Although hampered by COVID-19, we were able to host or participate in 13 Voter Outreach events. We handled voter questions and concerns with 299 individuals and

collected 97 completed voter registrations or change of address forms that we delivered to the appropriate SC County Voter Registration and Elections office. Outreach included high school lunchtime, farmers' markets, and county libraries. Our most effective venues, high schools, Horry Georgetown County Technical College and Coastal Carolina were unavailable for this year's outreach. All County high school administrators and counselors were contacted directly to encourage student access to voter registration and poll worker sign ups.

We visited one high school just prior to the primary in February and gathered 58 registration forms during lunch breaks from a very energized group of students. This fall the local Co Op Markets provided great access to all voters and a large variety of questions concerning confusion about the election process from such origins as to who, when, where and how to vote. Our revamped website and a new Facebook page helped to enlighten people as well as alerting voters to various changes and recruit new poll workers in our county.

We have a government liaison in a leadership position who diligently reports on current legislation, simplifying these vast amounts of information.

We were fortunate to attract new members from our newly devised communication methods. Using Zoom we had a new member orientation and mailed information to each new member. We can easily locate members by accessing our website membership list which is only available to members.

Our League was also active in a local issue on mining. This area mines a lot of sand for cement as well as fill in a vastly growing area. Members attended hearings, council meetings, heard speakers from both sides of the issue, and wrote letters about openness in government.

Our monthly meetings were held via ZOOM and those without internet access listened by phone and supplemented communications using the internet from the local libraries. We sent one person to the convention and were very grateful that the registration fee was reasonable. This helped our league financially since we have not been able to do any fundraising. We were ready to participate in the LWV 100-year anniversary events which kept changing and modifying from a parade to a car parade to a very warm social distancing stand, while most of our members chose to don hats of the era during our regularly scheduled ZOOM meeting. We also bought ten copies of *In Her Shoes* to be given to speakers when they address our group. So, looking back on the year, we feel we did the very best we could under very trying circumstances, and we look forward to new beginnings as LWVHC.

### **LWV of Spartanburg County -- Karen Mitchell**

2020 marked the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote as well the creation of the LWVUS. In Spartanburg we decided to celebrate in a big way.

We raised over \$20,000 for an outdoor mural for a Tribute to Sarah and Angelina Grimke, abolitionists and suffragists from South Carolina, who were famous in our country in the 1830's and 1840's. The beautiful mural is painted on one side of a downtown church, a block from the most popular urban trail in town. There is a bronze plaque and concrete bench where one can sit and engage with the mural. We got great publicity for these amazing South Carolina women and the League. In addition, we sold 500 notecards of the mural and had to reorder. It was a successful fundraiser for us.

Our Voter Service team collaborated with the United Way of the Piedmont, a neighborhood association, NAACP, an Hispanic group, a church, and a new non-profit organization working on voting.

The United Way of the Piedmont hosted the LWV virtually to get information to people about voting. USC Upstate had our team help teach classes, Converse College had our voter services team do a virtual event, and high schools were taught by our team.

We did VOTE411, volunteered over 100 hours in the local Election office since they were overwhelmed, eight of our members were poll workers on election day and two of them were in charge.

Other highlights included having a program chair who made the virtual general meetings visually interesting, and we created a DEI Plan and began doing that work. Wofford College had a virtual session open to all alumni and students on race and elections in the fall and asked our president to be one of three panelists.

Our membership grew from 59 to 79.

A final thought- how do you count the spin offs from the LWV? Our President got a call from two members who had a GOTV idea and asked if the League could do it. It was during the immensely busy time of October 2020. The president said, "You don't need the League's OK, you are ready, and have the money, just do it. All citizens can participate in getting out the vote." They printed over 2,000 door hangers with a catchy phrase and good visuals to encourage people to vote. They worked with the neighborhood association the League had been working with and went door to door hanging them in this underserved neighborhood.

### **LWV of Sumter County -- Delois Woodward**

Rocking the vote during the pandemic brought about challenges and successes. We are a small league with colossal ideas especially when it comes to voting. We had the challenge of the cold weather, the pandemic, and our community family who decided staying at home was the best place to be during these horrific times. As a league we decided we had to meet the people where they were if we wanted to rock the much-needed vote. We also realized we had to keep ourselves safe during this voting campaign we were about to venture into, not knowing what the outcome would be



The Sumter League started with community members 65 and older because they were able to vote absentee at that time. Most did not want to leave their homes. We contacted churches letting them know we wanted to assist these voters with getting their absentee ballot by phone if they were willing. Also, we reached out to organizations to include the Sumter Voter Registration Office for assistance with this endeavor. We contacted the individuals by phone, requested the absentee ballot application and asked those contacted to contact us by phone once their ballot was received by mail. If the voter could not leave their home, we picked up their ballots and took them to the voter registration office.

Even though we were met with challenges, such as individuals not wanting to give out information such as social security numbers, we knew we needed to brainstorm about how and where we could meet a large majority of the people. The grocery stores were an option.

We contacted the store managers (three Piggly Wiggly Stores and two Wal-Mart Stores) requesting permission to set-up voter registration tables. Not only did the managers give the league permission to set-up the voter registration tables, but they also gave us the days and times they would have most people coming in and the best location to set-up. The League was excited and ready to face any challenges we would encounter. A league member made patriotic masks for us to wear, and we wore white shirts with black pants and our league pins. We collaborated with other local organizations and solicited volunteers from the community to assist us with this endeavor. We used our own mobile devices to register those without devices and handed out information on how to register online for those who wanted to do it on their home computers.

The League continued providing information on absentee voting and additional information on the added absentee voting locations throughout Sumter County. We were contacted to provide voting information to individuals receiving food boxes at various church locations, the local farmer's market, a back-to-school bash, neighborhood meetings, and different community events. We were faced with challenges throughout our endeavor. Many college students did not know or have their social security or driver's license number. Some people we spoke to questioned our knowledge of the registration and overall voting process. Nonetheless, the success of having more people understanding the importance of exercising their right to vote far outweighed any hurdles.

### **LWV of York County - Karen Woods, Lisa Griffin**

The York County League formed as a MAL (Member at Large) Unit in early 2020 and successfully joined the LWVSC and LWVUS as a full League in December 2020. With only one in-person event to garner interest in February 2020, we managed to establish local League leadership and grow total membership to 21 members while continuing to meet virtually. We have only lost 1 member who chose not to renew her membership.

The York County League held four voter registration and information events in

September 2020 in Rock Hill, South Carolina, at a location near downtown near businesses supportive of our efforts. Though it is unclear how many new voters were registered, we were able to provide information on polling sites and absentee voting to quite a few individuals. We provided information sheets and included QR codes and links to SCVotes.org and Vote411.org.

For the November election, the York County League had four members serve as Poll Managers and one League member as a Poll Clerk. In addition, one member working as a Poll Member encouraged and had her husband train and work as a Poll Manager. Three League members attended the York County Election Certification Hearing and one member travelled to Chester County for that county's Certification Election Hearing.

The York County League has struggled as most organizations have with maintaining member engagement in a virtual environment, but had an engaging meeting with an outside speaker on diversity and recently had a lively conversation in a meeting on the book, "The Woman's Hour." The League is looking to have more outside speakers on relevant and timely topics such as voting rights, local redistricting concerns, education, and healthcare reform and access. The YC League is also exploring partnering with the John West Policy Forum at Winthrop University on future programs and speakers.

In addition to these programs, the York County League is looking forward to getting out in the community more, in person, as members and the community are vaccinated and pandemic restrictions lifted. The York County League has a dedicated Director of Voter Service as of the beginning of 2021 with a small but enthusiastic committee.

In January 2021, the League of Women Voters of Spartanburg County reached out to the York County League and shared a tremendous amount of information on their Voter Service programs, initiatives, and materials. LWV of York County is grateful for their outreach and is looking forward to implementing and brainstorming with Spartanburg and other local Leagues in this crucial area of League work. The York County League is actively working to partner with local colleges and high schools regarding voter registration, as well as to foster a good relationship with the York County Voter Registration and Elections department.

The York County League is researching and looking for local festivals and events that we can participate in to publicize the League for membership purposes, as well as providing information on voter service or other timely legislative issues. Our local Strawberry Festival in May 2021 will be a great opportunity to meet the community and other vendors who have booths.

In the meantime, the League maintains a Facebook public page and a members-only private page. We have been sharing content from the LWVUS, LWVSC, or other SC local Leagues while we work to start providing our own content.

A luncheon is being planned to reach the Latino Community. Key representation from Latino leaders will assure support. Our goal is to recruit members from this community

for membership. We will also be sponsoring similar events for the black community in our area through social groups, the NAACP, and through local churches for support. Overall, the York County League has had a very successful year and has managed to establish itself and grow during a challenging time. The leaders and members are engaged and looking forward to becoming even more active in the upcoming year.

## Past Presidents of LWVSC

Harriet Simmons, Charleston, 1951-55	Marge West, Columbia, 1989-93
Jean Erwin, Spartanburg, 1955-57	Joyce Elhassani, Spartanburg, 1993-95
Caroline Carre, Charleston, 1957-60	Mary Ann Burt, Walterboro, 1995-99
Betty Wiggins, Hartsville, 1960-61	Laurel Suggs, Columbia, 1999-05
Mary Bryan, Columbia, 1961-63	Sheila Haney, Hartsville, 2005-07
Elizabeth Moore, Columbia, 1963-67	Barbara Zia, Charleston, 2007-11
Keller Bumgardner, Columbia, 1967-71	Barbara Zia, Charleston, and Peggy Brown, Florence, 2011-213
Barbara Moxon, Columbia, 1971-77	JoAnne Day, Columbia, and Susan Richards, Charleston, 2013-15
Joy Sovde, Columbia, 1977-79	JoAnne Day, Columbia, and Julie Hussey, Charleston, 2015-17
Judith Thompson, Columbia, 1979-83	Julie Hussey, Charleston, and Holley Ulbrich, Clemson, 2017-18
Linda Powers Bilanchone, Spartanburg, 1983-85	Holley Ulbrich, Clemson, and Christe McCoy- Lawrence, Charleston, 2018-21
Mary Kelly, Columbia, 1985-87	
Nan Smyth, Beaufort, 1987-89	

