



LEAGUE LINES

Post Office Box 12541 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 665-1768

www.lwvcolumbiasc.org


Editor Suzanne Rhodes / Co-editor Sej Harman

Volume 66, Issue 7

April 2014

Calendar

APRIL

- 7 (M)** LWVCA Board Meeting
5:00 PM at the Lourie Center
- 7 (M)** World Health Day
- 6-13** National Volunteer Week
- 17 (Th)** PPL – FIELD TRIP 
11:45 – RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!!
- 19 (Sa)** Gun Turn-in Event – 10-2 at
Washington Street UMC - (see p. 5)
- 21 (M)** SC Sierra Club – Climate
Change with Jim Gandy (see p. 5)
- 26 (Sa)** LWVSC Council Meeting –
Columbia (details at
<http://www.lwvsc.org/2014/lwvscouncil.html>)
All members are welcome.

While most of us are familiar with both Passover and Easter, which occur this month, special days for several other religions also occur in April. You might enjoy following this link:

<http://interfaithcalendar.org/2014.htm>

MAY

- 1 (Th)** Law Day
- 10 (Sa)** Last Day to Register to Vote in
JUNE 10th State Primary Election
- 15 (Th)** Annual Meeting – 5:30 PM -at
Medallion Center (see p. 2)

JUNE

- 5 (Th)** General Assembly adjourns



Public Policy Luncheon

Thursday, April 17, 2014 – 11:45 AM

FIELD TRIP

Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library at USC's Thomas Cooper Library

A tour of the SC Political Collections conducted
by Collections Director Herb Hartsook

The Collections houses papers, artifacts and oral histories of SC's prominent politicians, journalists, citizen activists, and organizations, including the League. Currently on its website is a bio of long-serving LWVCA member **Sarah Leverette**, also on the State League board. **Candy Waites**, another long-time member of the League, is also featured in their article to commemorate Women's History Month.

Lunch will precede the tour at Preston's dining room, on the 2nd floor of the Russell House next to the Cooper Library. Preston's serves a buffet style lunch. Cost, including tax, is \$10.50.

Consider carpooling to parking garage behind Cooper Library OR from the Lourie Center. Metered spaces available. Make your own carpooling arrangements.

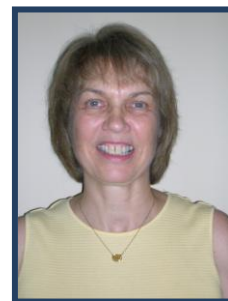
Lunch reservations and questions re tour or lunch:
Contact **Sally Huguley**, shuguley@sc.rr.com.

**Reservations* are required by
5 PM, Tuesday, April 15.**

Please EMAIL reservation to Shuguley@sc.rr.com

The Prez Says...**Martha Roblee**

Wow! March was packed with many activities and events important to the League. We conducted the Agriculture Update consensus meeting; heard from Dr. Baron Holmes, one of the drafters of the “Read to Succeed Bill”; took a “road trip” with COMET representatives; kicked off our Youth Voter Registration initiative; and attended a community discussion on the ACA and Medicaid expansion co-sponsored by the LWVSC. I was also the guest speaker for the reception dinner for the 2014 Honorary Girl Scout Legislative Pages.



On a more serious note, problems with the administration of Richland County’s elections continue to make the headlines. I attended the March 21st hearing where Judge Cooper gave Richland County until April 1 to create an order to separate the county’s elections and voter registration board. Although by the time you read this letter this current chapter of election problems may be resolved, there is still much work to be done. We are fortunate to have **Lynn Teague**, our State League Legislative Action VP, working to have provisions passed at the state level to address statewide consistency in the administration of elections, to improve election oversight in SC and to get a statewide legislative “fix” for the unconstitutional mergers of the two functions of the counties elections boards.

Protecting voters’ rights at all levels is a primary function of the League. As an individual member of the League, you can get involved by volunteering for a voter services activity, becoming a member of an Observer Corps, and/or responding to action alerts. To learn more about how you can volunteer your services to this important League function please contact **Shirley Geiger**, Voter Services Chairperson, or me.

Lastly, I encourage all of you to attend the Annual Meeting on May 15th at the Medallion Conference Center (please see notice below for complete details). At this important meeting, members will adopt a budget for the 2014/2015 fiscal year, elect officers and directors, and adopt local program planning. There will also be time for attendees to socialize.

Martha**ANNUAL MEETING LWV COLUMBIA AREA****Thursday, May 15, 2014**

Where: The Medallion Conference Center, Congaree & Saluda rooms, 7309 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209 (Between Greenlawn Dr and E Exchange Pl. The Conference Center’s driveway is just before the Holiday Inn Express on Garners Ferry Road and the building is behind the hotel); if you have limited mobility, park to the right of the building and enter through the door on the right side of the building; the meeting room is directly in front of you.

Time: Buffet dinner – 5:30 – 6:30 PM Annual Business Meeting – 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Reservations are required no later than end of day, Wednesday, May 7;

please RSVP to **Susan James at susanbjames@sc.rr.com.**

SEWER SPILLS & SIGNAGE: Palmetto

Wastewater Reclamation received notification of a sanitary sewer spill (SSO) on March, 12, 2014, in its Alpine Utility system, located in Lexington County. The utility was notified at 1:50 PM and arrived on the scene at 2:35 PM. The SSO, located on **Stoops Creek at Berry Hill Road**, occurred when debris and tree limbs accumulated over a 10-inch iron sewer pipe crossing Stoops Creek, causing the pipe to fail.

According to DHEC's watershed water quality assessment for Kinley Creek, aquatic life uses are partially supported based on macroinvertebrate



community data. In addition, there are significant decreasing trends in dissolved oxygen concentration and increasing trends in total phosphorus concentration and

total suspended solids. Recreational uses are not supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.

Unfortunately, DHEC has no assessment information for Stoop Creek in its watershed assessment document.

Another sewage leak posting by City of Columbia is on **Banbury Road in Whitehall subdivision**. Run-off drains into storm drains which drain to Kinley Creek which flows under St Andrews Road to the Lower Saluda River. DHEC has a monitoring station at the St Andrews Rd bridge over Kinley Creek.

The road has been dug up, evidently to gain access to pipes, and then covered over with steel plates. Photos taken on March 06. Now you may wish to look more closely at these signs!

**Chester Sansbury, Chairperson
Environmental Affairs Committee**



VOTER SERVICES

The Voter Services Committee met late in February to discuss the Youth Registration Grant activities during the spring. **Shirley Geiger, Morya Jackson, Sherry Jacenko, Carol Medich, Susan James**, and Committee supporter, **Karlann Brenner**, decided to focus on Richland and Lexington high school seniors and began by contacting the Senior Class Advisor in each school and using social media. The Planning Committee is planning to offer cash prizes to the first five senior class organizations that register the highest percentage of their eligible seniors before graduation.

In March, 107 eligible students were registered and 3 students completed the application for Poll Worker! An amazing success story, and they are still planning!! League members wishing to participate, please contact Shirley Geiger at geigersm@email.sc.edu.

Shirley Geiger

MARCH LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS

The guest speaker for our PPL educated us on education as it relates to South Carolina children in public schools. As outlined in the March *League Lines*, **Baron Holmes, Ph. D.**, currently works with the USC Children's Law Center, where he provides research support to the Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children. He has worked with the Budget and Control Board, SC Kids Count and SC Middle Grades Project. His work in these areas led to the drafting of the **"Read to Succeed"** bill (S 516) currently under consideration by the legislature. "Read to Succeed" is an initiative promoted by Governor Haley to intervene with children who are not reading at grade level by the end of the third grade.



Dr. Holmes pointed out that no *policy* has been developed on reading, just activity. "Read to Succeed" will identify the types of professional development appropriate for teachers, because most teachers have limited training in reading. The basis of the training is that raising the bar is not enough. We have to teach how to jump. We cannot get a good return on our investment if we don't identify the type of instructional materials

that should be used and objectives to be achieved.

To address student challenges, attempts are being made to overlap with other organizations, such as churches, to improve the family environment. Efforts are also geared to assist families in which the adults can't read, as well as other types of issues, but the orchestration of these initiatives and efforts is still a problem.

The question of how much "Read to Succeed" would cost if it is fully incorporated becomes the greater challenge when programs compete for public dollars. But the real question is how much will it cost **if we don't** improve the education level of our young people and we continue to drop behind other nations.

Pam Craig

State Park Visit – A Learning Experience...

I visited Redcliff State Park, and two rangers asked me separately, "You look familiar. Were you at Devil's Fork State Park a couple of weeks ago?" "Yes, I was." Here's why they asked me: I



had called to compliment the staff on a waterfall hike I took, and the agency director circulated the email below statewide to employees and the Governor.

Ann Humphries

"We recently had a Waterfall program in the upstate. Jeff Atkins and Terry Conway were given a real treat last week when they led the **Devils Fork Waterfall Excursion**. We had received a call from one of our guests asking about bringing a service animal on the trip. Of course we said yes, but they were not expecting the service animal to be a guide dog for a person who is blind. Ann and Brego (the service animal) were awesome! Ann was very versed in the natural environment and an excellent "birder" hearing the songs of the birds and recognizing them before others "saw" them. Hearing the sounds of falling water and feeling the drop in temperature at the falls, small stuff. Things we too often take for granted. As a team, Ann and Brego crossed creeks, climbed over logs, climbed up and down hills, dealt with the cold and had a blast! **It was a valuable learning experience for us on how people learn differently and with a**

little assistance can experience the wonder of a State Park. A program that inspires both the participants and the leaders... now that's a Point of Pride!" [co-editor's emphasis. SH]

Help wanted...ASAP

Lynn Teague, State League Advocacy Director, is requesting that as many Columbia Area League members as possible attend a subcommittee meeting on ethics reform. The details are below. If questions, please contact Lynn directly.

"H.3945 has been scheduled for this coming **Wednesday, April 2, 1 1/2 hours after the House adjourns**, unless the House recesses for lunch. In that case, they will meet 30 minutes after adjournment of the House, in Rm. 516 of the Blatt Building. It would be very good if as many as possible could be present — we don't want it to look like we've all given up caring what they do.

The subcommittee consists of the regular Con Laws members with additions, so:

Hon. Bruce Bannister, Chairman

Hon. Tommy Pope (R)

Hon. Rick Quinn (R)

Hon. James Smith (D)

Hon. Walt McLeod (D)

+

Hon. J. Derham Cole, Jr. (R)

Hon. Daniel P. (Dan) Hamilton (R)

Hon. Todd Rutherford (D)

Hon. Anne J. Thayer (R)

Hon. J. David Weeks (D)"

To get a more precise idea of the time to be there, for those who live nearby, is to log onto scstatehouse.gov. Click on the streaming video of the House starting around noon. They usually adjourn 12:30 to 1:00, and if they do then the meeting will be around 2:30. IF, however, they adjourn for lunch and reconvene, then follow the action to see when they finally adjourn--then there is 30 minutes to get to Blatt. For those not familiar with the SH grounds, Blatt is the House of Reps office building at the corner of Pendleton and Assembly.

You may send your cell number to Lynn; she'll text you when she knows what's happening.

**Lynn Teague, 771-6714 H, 556-9802 C
Teague_L@bellsouth.net**

Announcements of Interest

REMINDER - Plan AHEAD

LWVUS CONVENTION 2014

The 51st National Convention of the LWV will be held **June 6–10, 2014**, in Dallas, TX, at the Omni Dallas Downtown Hotel. The 2014 Convention theme is **Power: Our Voices, Our Votes**.

Please visit www.lwv.org/content/your-guide-lwvus-convention-2014 for full details including schedule, registration, reservations, and activities and events. There is a \$335 registration fee.

If you are interested in attending this year's national convention, please contact **Martha Roblee**, President, LWVCA, at 803-414-6242 or mroblee@sc.rr.com. The LWVCA can send two voting delegates to the convention.

LWVSC Council of Leaders. Council will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 2014** at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbia. We will

- adopt the new budget and much more
 - attend informative and well presented sessions
 - network with Leaguers from across the state
- See AGENDA at end of this *League Lines*.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

JoAnne Day & Susan Richards, Co-Presidents

jvday@yahoo.com susan@srconcepts.org

Barbara Zia, VP Community Relations/Council Coordinator
ziab1@comcast.net



League Media Stars!

You, too, can be a media star!

LWVCA President Martha Roblee was the guest speaker for the reception dinner for the 2014 Honorary Girl Scout Legislative Pages.



Gun Turn-in Event

sponsored by Faith Coalition on Gun Violence* and Richland County Sheriff's Department

Saturday, April 19, 10 AM – 2 PM
Washington Street United Methodist Church parking lot

*The **Faith Coalition on Gun Violence** is open to anyone wishing to work toward a reduction in gun violence. Its mission is to **raise** awareness about gun violence; **promote** responsible and safe use and storage of guns; **educate** the public about alternatives to violence; and **advocate** for civil discourse, cooperation, and collaboration for real security and a less violent society and culture. For more information, contact **Sej Harman** at sejharman@att.net or 730-7208.

JIM GANDY "How Climate Change is Impacting South Carolina"

SC Sierra Club Media Person of the Year
Monday April 21, 2014

6:30 dinner,

7:00 presentation in the Green Quad

South Carolina's most recognized meteorologist and Sierra Club media person of the year will present evidence and scientific observations about how climate change is impacting our state. **DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING PROGRAM!**



Read more about Jim's work at his blog on WLTX [Climate Matters](#) and more here about his work on climate change [Gandy on Climate Change](#).

QUICK LINKS

Websites:

National www.lwv.org/

State <http://lwvsc.org/>

Columbia www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

League Update (National) of February 27, 2014:

http://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=159858

Facebook:

- Go to YOUR Facebook page and **search** for the name **Bria Tate**. [This is the alias that will “travel” with the League’s Facebook page.]
- **Choose** the “Bria Tate” with the LWV Logo.
- **Send** a FRIEND request to Bria Tate and it will be accepted. You’ll then have connected to the **LWV Columbia Area** Facebook page).

Twitter:

- Go to YOUR Twitter account and **search** for the League of Women Voters Columbia Area and connect.

Facebook and Twitter **email address**:

leagueofwomenvoterscolumbia@gmail.com



Columbia City Council

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM
City Hall
1737 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Check website at www.columbiasc.net for more information.



Lexington County Council

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM
2nd Floor County Administration Building
212 South Lake Drive
Lexington, SC 29072

For confirmation of meeting dates, please call 785-8103 or check website www.lex-co.com



Richland County Council

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM
2nd Floor County Administration Building
2020 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29202

For more information, please contact the Clerk of Council Office @ (803) 576-2061 or check: www.richlandonline.com/departments/countycouncil/index.asp or www.rcgov.us

*April Showers Bring
May Flowers...
ENJOY!*

2013-2014 Board: President – Martha Roblee; 1st VP – Julie Sellers; 2nd VP – Sally Huguley; Secretary – Al Roblee; Treasurer – Marianne McGrath. Directors: Pat Forbis (Women’s Health), Sej Harman (Communications/Membership), Sarah Leverette (State Liaison), Pat Mohr, Bridget Tripp (Social Media). Nominating Committee (2013-2014): Rita Paul, Susan James. Off-Board: Voter Services – Shirley Geiger; Website – Suzanne Rhodes; Environmental Affairs – Chester Sansbury; Membership – Pam Craig; Outreach – Marzi Knight; *League Lines* – Suzanne Rhodes/Sej Harman (Co-Editors).