



LEAGUE LINES

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

www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

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Volume 66, Issue 4

January 2014

Calendar First Quarter – 2014

JANUARY

- 6 (M) LWVCA Board Meeting
5:00 PM - Lourie Center
- 9 (Th) Nuclear Waste in SC – An Issue
Brief for Citizens - to be released
with press conference at SC State
House - details to follow
- 14 (Tu) Second regular session of the
119th SC General Assembly opens
Truthful Tuesday Rally: south side
of SC State House – NOON
- 15 (W) Conservation Conversations
with Legislators – 10:00 AM
Room 105 - Gressette Building
(Behind the State Capitol)
- 16 (Th) PPL – Mom’s Demand Action
& Legislative Update – Ethics
Reform 11:45 - Lourie Center
- 20 (M) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 26 (Su) Learning More about the LWV
Columbia Area - 3 – 4:30 PM,
SE Branch of Richland County
Library – 7421 Garners Ferry Road
- 31 (F) LWVUS online membership
count deadline

FEBRUARY

Black History Month Youth Voter Month

- 3 (M) LWVCA Board Meeting
5:00 PM - Lourie Center
- 14 (F) 94th Anniversary of founding of
League of Women Voters
- 20 (Th) PPL – Topic to be announced
11:45 AM

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Public Policy Luncheon

Thursday, January 16, 2014 – 11:45 AM

“Update on Gun Control Legislation”

and

“Overview of Important Issues for the 2014 Legislation Session”

Two timely topics will be the focus of our first Public Policy Luncheon for the New Year. **Erin Dando of the South Carolina Chapter of Moms Demand Action** will begin with an update on gun control and pending gun legislation before the S.C. General Assembly. In particular, Erin will address Senate Bill 308 allowing guns in bars and restaurants.

Much as Mothers Against Drunk Driving was created to reduce drunk driving, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was created to demand action from legislators, companies, and educational institutions to establish common-sense gun reforms. A non-partisan grassroots movement of American mothers demanding new and stronger solutions to lax gun laws, the group supports the 2nd Amendment, but believes common-sense solutions can help decrease escalating gun violence. (Data show that gun violence kills one American child every 3 hours and 15 minutes.) See www.momsdemandaction.org for more information.

Lynn Teague, VP, Issues and Action, LWVSC, will give an overview of important issues for the 2014 legislative session. In particular, Lynn will outline the current status of pending state ethics legislation, a major concern of the LWVSC.

The January PPL will be catered by *Food for Thought* and is available for \$10. Lunch begins at 11:45, with presentation at noon.

RSVP, please, to:

SusanBJames@sc.rr.com or **256-6822**

The Prez Says...

Martha Roblee

This is a time to reflect on the successes of the first half of the fiscal year and prepare for the activities of the New Year. We celebrate our hard work registering new voters, partnering with the Columbia Municipal Elections Commission to get out the vote for the November city elections and to educate voters on the new SC Voter ID rules, preparing an easy-to-read brochure on the facts and FAQs of the forms of city government, conducting public information forums and holding a consensus meeting on the forms of city government, and actively supporting the successful voter approval for the funding for Richland Library capital investments. Do you know that **Briget Tripp** has given us a presence on Facebook and Twitter, AND we have updated the Directories of Elected Officials for both Richland and Lexington Counties?

Upcoming events for the New Year include delivering a program to 250 Fairfield High School students on a history of women’s suffrage, conducting a “Get To Know Your Local League” session for new, old, and prospective members, conducting a consensus meeting on an agriculture update, possibly touring the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library for our April Public Policy Luncheon, and engaging in youth voter registration activities as part of the grant received by the SCLWV. I encourage each of you to participate in these activities. It is only through your participation in the League that we can continue to provide voter services and to help ourselves and the public become informed about important policy issues and the ways an individual can effectively influence government.

Lastly, I would like to give a special thanks to **Pat Forbis**. She graciously opened her beautiful home for our annual Member & Guest Holiday Social. For those of you who missed it, we had great fun, food and conversation.

I wish all of you a Happy New Year and look forward to serving you in 2014.

Martha

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MARCH

Women’s History Month

- 1 (Sa) LWVUS Program Planning reports due**
- 3 (M) LWVCA Board Meeting - 5:00 PM - Lourie Ctr.**
- 16-22 (Su-Sa) Sunshine Week, a national initiative to foster dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information**
- 16-30 (Su-Su) SC Partisan Candidate Filing Period for 2014 General Election**
- 20 (Th) PPL – Topic to be announced - 11:45 am**
- 22 (Sa) LWVSC Board Meeting - 10 AM-3 PM - Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd., W. Columbia**

APRIL

- 4 (F) Tentative deadline for local League consensus reports (online) for LWVUS Agriculture Position Update. See <http://lww.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>**
- April PPL – Tour of Hollings Special Collections Library and Lunch – DATE To be determined**

ANNUAL LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

If you haven’t yet gotten around to giving YOURSELF the gift of League membership or RENEWAL, now is the time.

As always, you can renew online. Click (or copy into your browser):

<http://lwvcolumbiasc.org/JoinUs.html> and select your level of membership, *or* mail your *Individual* (\$60), *Household* (\$100) or *Student* (\$30) membership check *and* your completed Membership Application Form to: League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area, P. O. Box 12541, Columbia, SC 29211

Forms can be obtained on-line at http://lwvcolumbiasc.org/join_form.html or by emailing Sej Harman @ sejharman@att.net and asking for a Word or PDF attachment to be sent to you.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS COLUMBIA AREA

Sunday, January 26, 3 – 4:30 PM

**Southeast Branch – Richland Library
7421 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209, phone 776-0855**

This meeting has been planned for current members as well as men and women who are considering membership.

We will discuss our focus on Midlands Government issues as well as State and National issues. You will get an overview of our history, and we invite your questions.

Membership in LWV Columbia Area includes membership in both the State and National Leagues. We are definitely non-partisan.

Call **Marzi Knight**, 803-312-2033 to register. There is NO Charge.



Public Transit: "State of the Penny" - See a video of the complete "State of the Penny" meeting, including questions from the audience. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find the video. It is about one hour long.

<http://richlandonline.com/Government/Committees/TransportationPennyAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

Truthful Tuesday: Although the League is not a member of the coalition, the leaders are often our partners on these and other issues: Rally January 14th High Noon at the SC State House (south side).

On their first day back, give lawmakers a message:

- Expand Medicaid - Fund education - Protect voting rights

Call 803-808-3384 or email info@TruthfulTuesday.net.

Save Energy: - washing hands in cold water is just as good.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/energy/2013/12/131213-washing-hands-hot-water-wast-es-energy-health/>

CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS WITH LEGISLATORS

The annual meeting with legislators referred to as "Conversations with Conservationists" includes a presentation by the CVSC and partners (which includes the LWV) hosted by Senator John Courson for Senate members and interested citizens will be held on January 15th at 10:00 a.m. in room 105 of the Gressette Building behind the State Capitol. It's important for League members to support this briefing to show support for legislation and programs which will support our natural resources and environmental quality protection programs.

Senator Courson has requested that you RSVP to Olivia Burns (803-212-6250 or OliviaBurns@scsenate.gov) as to whether or not you will be able to attend.

This year's priorities developed through the CVSC "Common Agenda" process, in which I participated as a LWV Representative, include recommendations on issues of Good Governance and budgeting for DNR and DHEC, water resource use and water quality protection, land use, conservation of resources, waste disposal issues, and energy development.

Please show your support through attendance at these briefings!

Chester Sansbury, LWV liaison to CVSC



"Old Macdonald Had a Farm,
E-I-E-I-O"...and it WASN'T
a giant potato farm!

In early December, Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers recognized the value of small farms to South Carolina's future, noting "as more consumers buy local, we need to not only meet that demand, but we must also capitalize on it."

Below is a link to the report from the SC Department of Agriculture: "Small Farms Mean Big Business" which complements our November PPL (see Pam's article at right). The report would be good background for our upcoming consensus meeting

Visit www.agriculture.sc.gov and look under Hot Topics.

NOVEMBER PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON SUMMARY



With the many topics that we've covered already this year, including the Richland County Library Bond Referendum and Public Transit, it makes one wonder how farming and foraging fit. We, as an organization, address a variety and a multitude of topics. At the national level in early 2014, The League of Women Voters will be studying an update on current technology and finance issues directly related to agriculture. The topic for the November PPL perfectly complements the national study on agriculture.

Even the caterer for the luncheon, "Gourmet Rose," got into the theme by serving locally grown organic produce for our salad entree.

Marzi Knight introduced both of our speakers with whom she has worked and studied. **Eric McClam**, a graduate of Tulane University School of Architecture, is Farm Manager of City Roots, South Carolina's first urban farm, certified organic, and recognized as one of five in the world. Eric used his architectural skills, along with those of his father Robbie McClam, an established Columbia Architect, to design a passive solar building at their location, 1005 Airport Boulevard, near Owen's Field and adjacent to the Rosewood neighborhood.

The farm uses "old-fashioned" as well as "new-fangled" ideas of composting and aquaponics. The farm recycles materials and by-products from many different sources. The year-round produce varies widely by season from microgreens, greens of all kinds, blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, as well as fish and eggs. Many restaurants, organic grocery stores, and individuals are regular customers. The Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA), in which subscribers pay up-front for a share of the crops produced each week, is very popular. And you can join!

Visit the website www.cityroots.org to learn more. And consider signing up for a tour of the farm.

Our second speaker, **Matthew "Matt" Kip**, is a Certified Permaculture Expert, having studied in the US as well as abroad. He was first influenced by a neighbor who took him out to the forest to show him how he could gather enough food for dinner. Permaculture respects the environment's need for sustainability. Matt encouraged us to learn to grow our own food in this way that nourishes healthy soil. He teaches the classes, offers tours of gardens that are outstanding examples right here in Columbia, SC, and is available to advise. His web site is www.MatthewKip.com

Both our speakers were very inspiring.

Pam Craig

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21



Happy New Year!



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, Briget 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/ Marzi Knight (Co-chairs); *League Lines* – Suzanne Rhodes/Sej Harman (Co-Editors).