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## Calendar October

<b>Sat</b>	<b>4</b>	Last Day to register to vote
<b>Mon</b>	<b>6</b>	LWVCA board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Richland Library Sandhills
<b>Thu</b>	<b>16</b>	Public Policy Luncheon, 11:45 AM, Lourie Center, "Climate Change", Dr. Kirstin Dow  Richland District 2 Candidates Forum, 6 p.m., Richland Northeast High School, 7500 Brookfield Rd, Columbia, SC 29223  Lt. Governor Candidate Debate on ETV 7 p.m.

## November

<b>Mon</b>	<b>3</b>	LWCA board meeting, 5:30PM, Location TBD
<b>Tues</b>	<b>4</b>	Election Day

**Thu**

**20** Public Policy Luncheon 11:45 AM, Lourie, "The Battle Continues:  
Legislative Issues Still  
Facing SC Women in  
Making Reproductive  
Choices." Melissa Reed



## OCTOBER PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON

**Thursday, October 16, 2014 – 11:45 AM- 1:00 PM**



### **Lourie Center - 1650 Park Circle (Pickens at Blossom)**

**Dr. Kirstin Dow**, a USC Professor in the Department of Geography, will talk about the science-based observations and findings on climate change to help you sort through the fact and fiction. Dr. Dow is a highly respected climate change scientist and has authored or co-authored many publications on adaption and decision-making with respect to climate change and water resources, and is the winner of several awards.



Climate change is a hotly debated subject at the moment. Many people are perplexed or misled over reports from the media and from politicians on appropriate measures to combat climate change – are they necessary to forestall a serious degradation to our environment? Come listen to Dr. Dow, beginning at 11:45 on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Lourie Center. For more information on Dr. Dow, please read Chester Sansbury's article on [page 3](#) Free print copies of the National Academy of Sciences Report, "**Climate Change, Evidence, Impacts, and Choices**," will be available for all attendees at the luncheon talk. Make your luncheon reservations and bring a friend! **A catered lunch will be available at \$10/pp, or bring your own brown bag lunch. Email: [sc.susanbjames@gmail.com](mailto:sc.susanbjames@gmail.com) or call 803-256-6822. All are welcome, but reservations for a catered lunch are required no later than Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.**

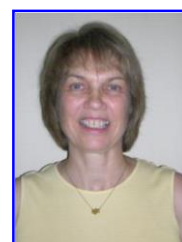


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1 *THE PREZ SEZ*

Martha Roblee



It was good to see everyone at our first Public Policy Luncheon for the fiscal year – and what a great turnout! My appreciation goes out to all our members who invited guests and to Marzi Knight, Chairperson, Outreach Committee, for her efforts in getting the printed media to announce the event and for spreading the word by networking with other organizations.

Unless you have been hibernating, you know that election season is in full force. The League, both at the state and local levels, is very busy planning and conducting voter services activities. The Columbia Area League will be co-sponsoring a forum with the Teachers Forum on October 16<sup>th</sup> for the candidates running for the Richland County District 2 School Board. The debate will begin at 6PM and will be held in the auditorium of the Richland Northeast High School. The Columbia Area League and the Richland County Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority are in the planning stages to co-host a reception in late October for candidates running for statewide and Lexington and Richland County offices. Another important voter service initiative sponsored by the State League is a South Carolina Voter Advocacy Network. I encourage everyone to visit the new website for this initiative at [www.saveallvotessc.org](http://www.saveallvotessc.org). The Columbia Area League plans to partner with another organization in the spring to conduct an advocacy workshop in an underserved area in the region.

The National League also has a valuable resource for voters. [WWW.VOTE411.org](http://WWW.VOTE411.org) is an online resource for election information, with state-by-state resources that help you answer many questions. These resources include a polling place finder (which will be updated for the general election), a voter registration tool, and the last day to register to vote for the November general election.

I hope to see everyone at the October Public Policy Luncheon. Another very timely topic and expert speaker is on the agenda.

*Martha*

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### GET THE SCIENTIFIC TRUTH ON CLIMATE CHANGE, *By Chester Sansbury*

A recent National Academy of Sciences report on Climate Change states: “Any course of action carries potential risks and costs; **but doing nothing may pose the greatest risk...**”

LWVUS says, “We have a moral obligation to our children and future generations to address the primary cause of climate change. Currently we limit how much mercury, arsenic, soot and other air pollution power plants can dump into our air, but there are no limits on carbon pollution”.

Come listen to Dr. Kirstin Dow, a USC Professor in the Department of Geography, on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Lourie Center to hear about the science-based observations and findings on climate change, and to help you sort through the fact and fiction. She is a member of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and was a lead author for chapter 16 of the Fifth Assessment Report, **Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability**. She also co-chaired an April conference on climate change in Charlotte (see info [Carolinasc Climate Resilience Conference: April 28-29, 2014](http://www.carolinascclimateconference.org/)), and following the conference was interviewed at length by a local ABC TV station. For some serious enlightenment you should watch the interview at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r43O6wSMkZI>

In addition to teaching courses on Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change and Human Impact on the Environment, Dr. Dow says, ***“I am interested in the co-production of science to inform decision-making on climate change, impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation. I work primarily with a large interdisciplinary research team, the Carolina Integrated Sciences and Assessments (<http://www.cisa.sc.edu/>) one of the 11 NOAA-supported Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments projects. CISA addresses climate modelling, drought, human health, watershed modelling, coastal hazards, and adaptation.”*** \_\_ *Chester*

\* \* \*



### ***We are our brother's keeper - RECAP OF SEPTEMBER PPL, By Pam Craig***

This was our first Public Policy Luncheon (PPL) for the 2014/15 year, and I didn't have enough fingers and toes to count the guests. It was 45, including 11 guests. What a great turnout, and it wasn't because we were homeless and had no place to go. It was that the topic was important to us all.

Prior to Ms. Carla Damron speaking, Martha introduced Daniel Deweese, of the Healthy Democracy Campaign, a project of the S.C. Progressive Network. The Healthy Democracy Campaign pointed out that many of the citizens of S.C. will not have access to health care because Medicaid Expansion was denied in our state. It related to our topic today because most homeless people would qualify for Medicaid under the expansion. If you would like more information, visit S.C. Progressive Network's website under "Healthy Democracy" at [www.scpronet.com](http://www.scpronet.com).

Marilynn Knight, we all know her by Marzi, introduced Carla Damron, the Executive Director of the SC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. As mentioned in the September League Lines, she has been a licensed clinical social worker and has over 30 years' experience in the field. Carla started her talk by pointing out some of the basic facts obtained from the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless. These facts state that 16% of the homeless have mental illness issues, 10% substance abuse, 1026 are children, 405 of those children are under the age of five, and 27% are families.

The problem is that businesses complain that some of the homeless are unsanitary and others are aggressive, thereby making shoppers feel threatened or uneasy. The City of Columbia initially tried to solve the problem by opening their winter shelter and restricting the movement of those who were there by not allowing them to leave the grounds. When the national media got wind of this, the City turned the project over to the Christ Central Ministries to administer the services offered.

Christ Central Ministries is doing a responsible job, but they have challenges - they have a paraprofessional staff; the winter shelter - a converted warehouse - is not a permanent facility and can only accommodate a small number of the homeless, approximately 250. Last winter, with two major storms, more than 300 needed the use of the shelter.

The City would like to focus on employment and permanent housing and has put out an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a Homeless Services Coordinator. Ms. Damron served on the RFP Review Committee. She pointed out that the Coordinator would need a hub to network and offer services. This place would need to be safe and permanent. If you want to help, contact your City Council member and ask them to provide the funding and support needed to address the needs and issues of the homeless. We are our brother's keeper.

*\_Pam*

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**FROM LWVUS:**

While many voters across our Country are just starting to think about the upcoming elections... .. deep-pocketed, partisan operatives have been preparing for November 4 for a long time.

In fact, they have—overtly and covertly—rolled out their tactical plan to block eligible voters from the polls, drowning out the voices of the ordinary citizens in favor of the wealthiest and most powerful special interests.

Here's a glimpse of how the League is fighting back:

Shredding of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA). Now, instead of being able to prevent states from implementing biased voter suppression laws, regulations and redistricting maps, the DOJ is only able to challenge new anti-voter measures after they have taken effect—and eligible voters have already been harmed.

- ✓ The League is pushing Congress to pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 (VRAA), a common sense solution to restore the effectiveness of the VRA and improve how America votes.

States are passing anti-voter laws to block millions of eligible voters from the polls. Within minutes of the Court's VRA ruling, multiple states moved forward with new barriers to voting—several of which the League and our supporters had previously defeated.

- ✓ The League is fighting state-by-state to repair the damage done by the Supreme Court's Shelby decision. These critical legal battles include working to block restrictive anti-voter laws in North Carolina and South Carolina and trying to overturn a district court decision that allowed Arizona and Kansas to require documentary proof-of-citizenship for voter registration.

Dark money in elections is drowning out the voices of voters. This spring, the Supreme Court handed down another shameful ruling to further dismantle our campaign finance system in *McCutcheon v. FEC*. Once again, showing its contempt for the citizens of this country by gutting the laws that protect our political system from corruption. Public officials at the highest levels of our government can take office beholden not to the voters, but to the special interests, corporations and billionaire donors who funded their campaigns.

- ✓ The League knows the best defense to counter the attacks on voters is widespread citizen action to get registered and go vote. Once again, we will be the single largest on-the-ground participant in National Voter Registration Day, as hundreds of Leagues across the country sign up thousands of new voters. These voters and millions of others will be able to find the information they need to cast their votes on the League's [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) website.

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**STEP UP TO STOP  
VIOLENCE**

**Peace Walk in downtown Columbia**  
**Saturday, November 8, from 10 AM to Noon**  
**Sponsored by: The Faith Coalition on Gun Violence**

**Peace Walk** participants will gather at Zion Baptist Church on Washington Street at 10 AM and walk to the north side steps of the State House. At the capitol, a brief program will include prayer, reflection, and music in recognition of victims of gun violence and their families. Participants are encouraged to **“step up to stop violence”** and to stand together for peace in our communities.

The Faith Coalition on Gun Violence is a grassroots, volunteer organization which is non-partisan and non-political. Walkers are welcome to carry posters and banners, and suggestions for both should be submitted by October 24 to be reviewed for appropriateness to the Peace Walk theme. Participants may request that posters be made for them.

The overall mission of the FCGV is **to effect a culture change** through *discourse* about violence and its effects on individuals and communities, *alternatives* to violence in resolving conflicts, *education* about the responsible ownership of firearms, and *advocacy* for reasonable responses to the epidemic of gun violence in our society.

**For further information**, please visit [www.Facebook/FaithCoalitionOnGunViolence](http://www.Facebook/FaithCoalitionOnGunViolence)

Or, contact League members **Kathy Handel** at [FaithCoalitionOnGunViolence@gmail.com](mailto:FaithCoalitionOnGunViolence@gmail.com) or **Sej Harman** at [sejharman@att.net](mailto:sejharman@att.net) for a Peace Walk Information Packet, Team Registration form, poster request, as well as other details.

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### **Saving Sea Food**

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council opposes BOEM seismic testing on the U.S. East Coast**

**For more information, visit:**

<http://www.savingseafood.org/council-actions/mid-atlantic-fishery-managementcouncil-oppos-es-boem-seismic-testing-on-the-us-east-3.html>

...comments from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC or "Council") in response to the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate potential environmental effects of multiple geologic and geophysical (G&G) activities in the Mid- and South Atlantic OCS Planning Areas.

The Council's primary mission is to manage fishery resources in federal waters off the coast of the Mid-Atlantic region through the implementation of management measures that prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield (OY) from each of 13 managed fisheries. Although the Council's focus is on sustainable fisheries management, this objective is only feasible in the context of a healthy and resilient ecosystem. It is clear that G&G activities have substantial impacts on marine environments, yet the Draft PEIS provides insufficient information about how the specific proposed G&G activities may affect fish, marine mammals, benthic communities, and ecosystem structure and function. We understand that these impacts are difficult to predict or quantify, but given the existing value of marine resources to the region and the nation, it is clear that the potential benefits do not outweigh the risks of initiating the proposed G&G activities at this point.

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### MEDIA STARS:

**Lill Mood** was mentioned in a September 14th article in *The State* newspaper regarding her leadership role with a Sequoia Tree planting project with Chapin High students. You may recall that she told us about this project during the LWV Columbia Area pontoon boat ride.

**Ann Humphries** is featured in an article in the Director's Column under "**No Excuses.**" The article is about her adventure with her seeing-eye dog "Brego" on a winter waterfall trip. Read the full article at:

[http://discoversouthcarolina.travel/tr/c/j5f861163j6165au5a25ax5eh5f760f63a5a300/14991/j5f861163j6165au5a25ax5eh5f760f63a5a300'](http://discoversouthcarolina.travel/tr/c/j5f861163j6165au5a25ax5eh5f760f63a5a300/14991/j5f861163j6165au5a25ax5eh5f760f63a5a300)

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## Websites:

**National:** [www.lwv.org/](http://www.lwv.org/)

**State:** <http://lwvsc.org/>

**Columbia:** [www.lwvcolumbiasc.org](http://www.lwvcolumbiasc.org)

**Facebook:** To see our Facebook Page:

1. 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.]
2. Choose the “Bria Tate” with the LWV Logo.
3. Send a FRIEND request to Bria Tate and it will be accepted. You are then connected to the *LWV Columbia Area* Facebook page).

## Twitter:

1. 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](mailto:leagueofwomenvoterscolumbia@gmail.com)

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[www.saveallvotessc.org](http://www.saveallvotessc.org)

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

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### 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](http://www.columbiasc.net) for more information.



### Lexington County Council

Meet: 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](http://www.lex-co.com)



### Richland County Council

Meet: 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/county\\_council/index.asp](http://www.richlandonline.com/departments/county_council/index.asp) or [www.rcgov.us](http://www.rcgov.us)



### LWVCA BOARD MEMBERS & DIRECTORS

Martha Roblee – President, Julie Sellers - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Sally Huguley - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Alan Roblee – Secretary, Rosalyn Glenn – Treasurer, Pat Manley - Director/ League Lines Production Editor

Directors: Bridget Tripp, Pat Forbis, Sarah Leverette, Pat Mohr, Missy Caughman, Rita Paul - Nominating Committee

Off Board: Chester Sansbury – Environment, Lill Mood - Transportation; Marilyn Knight - Outreach; Suzanne Rhodes - League Lines; Sej Harman – Communications, Susan James - Reservations; Pam Craig – Membership; Mel Jenkins – Voter Services

