

League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area



LEAGUE LINES

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Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 1, 5:30 – 7:30, Board Meeting, Jason's Deli

Thursday, April 18, Public Policy Luncheon, Representative Seth Rose 11:45 Lourie Center

Friday and Saturday, May 4-5, Biennial LWVSC Convention in Charleston (<http://www.lwvsc.org/>)

Tuesday, May 7, LWV/Columbia Area will participate in Midlands Gives fundraiser, see [page 9](#)

Thursday, May 16, Annual Members Meeting and Social, Place TBD



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PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON Thursday, April 18, 2019



Representative Seth Rose, Richland County SC House District 72, will present a legislative update 11:45 on April 18 at the Lourie Center. Be sure to make a reservation with Susan James (sc.susanbjames@gmail.com).

Raised by his mother Gigi and his grandparents, Bernard and Clida Rose, Seth Rose grew up in his grandparents' home where he acquired a driving work ethic and desire to help others. Seth attended USC on a men's tennis scholarship, where he excelled. Seth became one of only 10 Gamecocks to be selected an All-American singles tennis player and was inducted into the USC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

Seth and his wife Anna, a pharmacist, have three children: Cole (age 7), Luke (age 5), and Tillie (age 2). The Rose family is a member of the Downtown Church of Columbia. A graduate of the USC School of Law, Seth is a former prosecutor for Richland County and the founder of Seth Rose, Attorney at Law.

A former Richland County Council member, Seth was responsible for the "biggest act of transparency in Council history" when,

in his first year, he sponsored the motion to publicly record and broadcast Council meetings. He followed that by sponsoring and fighting to have roll-call voting on Council members voted on important measures. Then Seth sponsored a motion, approved 7-2, to have all votes of Council recorded electronically. As a Council member, he was also responsible for stopping unwanted rock quarries along Bluff Road near Williams-Brice Stadium and the Arthurtown neighborhood; closing adult businesses operating for decades in violation of county zoning laws; expanding library services across downtown Columbia and St. Andrews; and voting against financially wasteful budget items. Seth was also recognized by Keep the Midlands Beautiful for being the "Green Elected Official of the Year." He was elected to the SC House of Representatives in fall 2018 and serves on the Regulations and Administration and the Judiciary Committees.

"The social fabric of today's South Carolina is very different from the segregated era of my childhood. We have benefitted from a more integrated society that values all our people. We struggle with the remnants of inherited social problems that surface in attitudes toward education, access to public transportation, pay differences for women, tax exemptions for those with influence, and other ways—both subtle and blatant. Reflecting on the journey South Carolina has made can motivate us to take the next steps toward a more just society. Visiting the USC *Justice* exhibit is a great way to begin."

"Legislators should act on voting machines before 2020 elections bring new problems. As a political candidate, taxpayer, and voter who has experienced faulty voting machines, I say BUY NOW. The current machines are antiquated, dysfunctional.

The outcry during previous elections over long lines and inability to vote will be nothing compared to what is to come if these machines are not updated before the 2020 elections. While S.C. results were rolling in on election night in 2018, my race was not called or determined until after midnight because machine flash cards had failed.

Also, I support closed primaries, voter ID, moving voting day to Saturday, and additional time options. Voting should be as easy as shopping at a grocery store! More volunteers are essential to work and observe at voting precincts. Since I plan to be a candidate for the House District 52 again in 2020, I cannot. But you can—and think how much easier it would be if done on a Saturday!

Contact legislators and ask them to move now on the inevitable utter fail that would be with our current voting machines."

League members and friends are welcome. RESERVATIONS for a catered lunch are required no later than Wednesday NOON, April 17, 2019.

Cost of lunch: \$10.00 (Attendees may bring a lunch)

Please RSVP to Susan James: sc.susanbjames@gmail.com or call 256-6822

VIEW FROM RIVER'S EDGE

Janelle Rivers

“Roll a big stone on top of my grave because I don’t want to rise on judgment day.” Those words are attributed to Stephen Jackson, a firebrand and a signer of South Carolina’s Ordinance of Secession. He was an upstate farmer, not a low-country plantation owner, and he was my grandmother’s grandfather—only four generations removed in family history. He was expressing regret for his part in the political movement that led to the Civil War. According to family stories, he thought the Union was a “gentleman’s agreement” and he had dismissed the possibility that secession could lead to war. He came to regret his part in fomenting revolution in South Carolina. He regretted that he had not foreseen the consequences of his words and actions. He deeply regretted the bloodshed and suffering that followed. In some ways, he had been caught up in an exploitative economic system that he didn’t start and couldn’t fully understand.



The same thing could be said of many native South Carolinians today. We inherited many of the economic and social problems we see around us. We didn’t start them, and we may not fully understand them. The question is, “What do we do about them?” How do we move forward toward a more just society?

On March 13, League members toured the exhibit *Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement* at USC Thomas Cooper Library. Michael Weisenburg, Ph.D., led the group through the exhibit, allowed time for some exploration, and provided our group with a room for discussion following the tour. Terris Riley, who has responsibility for the justice portfolio for the LWV/Columbia Area, led the discussion. Visiting the exhibit spurred valuable reflection and open discussion about social dynamics, our personal reactions, and race relations in South Carolina

The exhibit uses oral history recordings, film clips, photographs, postcards, diaries and manuscripts to highlight largely overlooked chapters in the history of the Civil Rights movement and how people in South Carolina helped to change the country, especially in the areas of voting rights, educational justice, and desegregation. Displayed together for the first time, the items fill 30 glass cases and utilize all the exhibit spaces in the Thomas Cooper and the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections libraries. The narrative is extended through specially-designed posters, elevator door wraps, and directional signage featuring noted civil rights activists.

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_libraries/exhibits_events_news/events/Justice_for_All_exhibit.php.

As our guide explained, “Desegregation resistance is part of the Civil Rights Movement story, and the exhibit addresses that resistance with material on the Ku Klux Klan and Jim Crow Laws. Not everyone is on the right side of history. We need to remember that this happened, that there were those who sided against racial equality, and that we continue to fight for civil rights on many levels.”

Developed by the Center for Civil Rights History and Research at USC, in partnership with the USC Libraries and the College of Arts and Sciences, with grant funding from

South Carolina Humanities, the exhibit will be open Monday - Friday, from 8:30 - 5:00 through August 2, 2019.

Finding a parking space may be easier on Fridays. The closest possibility is the parking garage next to Thomas Cooper Library, which is accessed by turning north from Blossom Street on to a fragment of Bull Street that still bears that street name, driving to the top of a steep hill, and turning left onto a fragment of what was once Devine Street. If you use the parking garage, it's most convenient to take your ticket with you and pay at the kiosk in the corner of the garage nearest the library before you return to your car.

Between the parking garage and the library, be sure to notice the new statue of Richard T. Greener. He was the first African-American professor at USC, serving during the Reconstruction Era, from 1873 through 1877. A copy of the **Green Book** of accommodations available to traveling African-Americans is displayed just inside the Cooper Library front door. Preston's at Noon is one of many lunch options – a buffet in the Russell House adjacent to the libraries for those wishing to spend hours at the *Justice* exhibit.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the University is hosting Open Galleries lectures, which are free and open to the public. The remaining lectures are on the Charleston Hospital Strike at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 20, and on the legacy of Briggs v. Elliott at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, with Open Galleries from 10-3 on both dates. Also, the College Sport Research Institute Conference opening lecture and reception on April 3 will feature a talk about Civil Rights and Sports by Dr. Damion Thomas, Curator of Sports, Museum of African American History and Culture at 5:30 in the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, Program Room. That lecture is also free and open to the public.

If you can't visit the Thomas Cooper Library in person, you can access many of the resources via Internet. You might begin with the part of the exhibit that displays civil rights films from the moving image research collection at <https://digital.library.sc.edu/collections/civil-rights-films-from-uscs-moving-image-research-collections/>. Click the red "View Collection" box, and then on the next screen, increase the number displayed to 100 or more to see the entire list of choices. Many of the clips include audio, and some feature women, including Gloria Rackley, Mary Moultrie, Modjeska Simpkins, Septima Clark, and Henrie Monteith



Photo: Michael Weisenburg, Ph.D., Ann Humphries, and dress made by Barbara Moxon, mother of Laurel Suggs, both LWV/SC leaders.

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THE UNREASONABLE PATHWAY TO PEACE

Editors' Note: League Lines typically does not include personal reflections. The following article is a rare exception, which comes directly from the shared experience of League members who toured the USC exhibit on March 13. Members who met to view "Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement" experienced the content in different ways, based on their personal histories and experiences. Some League members commented that they felt the exhibit was "sanitized," while others found the emotional content of some parts almost overwhelming. Terris Riley, who manages the justice portfolio for LWV/Columbia, was the only African-American member present that day. She led a frank discussion at the conclusion of our tour and graciously agreed to share her personal reaction to the exhibit in the following article for our newsletter. Frequently pundits express a need for more honest communication about race relations. Our discussion after viewing the exhibit together was a rare moment when League members could compare our emotional reactions and think together about a way forward. We are grateful to Terris for allowing us to publish her personal reflection.

When I awakened March 13, I had an unusual sense of anticipation and eagerness. I'm not sure if it was because of the challenges I knew my workday would bring or if perhaps my awareness was awakened ... without my permission or consent.

I was very excited about the tour and looked forward to what I would learn about my own history of my own state. I did not anticipate this learning opportunity would provide a sea of emotions in my strong, but still very tender, heart.

Our tour guide was exceptional. Though not a native, he was quite knowledgeable of the African-American history of our beloved state. I was the only person of color, but I did not feel alone and neither did I feel out of place. While I am no stranger to the pain of South Carolina's deep dark past, I recognized that the conversation can be difficult for people who do not necessarily look like me. In fact, there are times at which I am not eager to entertain this discussion. Yet, it behooves us all to acknowledge the state of justice. And, for those of us called to contend for and bare the load of this weighty burden, we must move beyond the state of acknowledgement and choose to become intricately involved—allowing our righteous indignation to provoke a perpetual state of an awakened heart. But such humanity and morality

does not come without a price. This is the crossroad at which I believe the pathway to peace becomes unreasonable.

As we toured the exhibit, observing the horrific and hate-filled historical artifacts,



my emotions began to build. I briskly walked away to gather myself, convinced that fresh air would help. The sea was subsiding, I thought, so I returned to the tour. Fortunately, I was blessed to be surrounded by compassionate women who embraced and respected my fragmented emotional response to the reality of the history of my beloved people

in my beloved state. This was not my first time seeing the horrors but it is impossible to not feel the pain as if it is the first time. Hearing stories of South Carolina's hateful past is profoundly different than seeing the 'evidence' of the gruesome hate. Most unfortunately, I have a few stories of my own—some of which have never been told.

We concluded our tour with a meaningful and authentic conversation. The question/answer discussion was intimate and open. While I did most of the speaking, I discerned that my thoughts were well received and my insight appreciated. That was not my goal or intent but our sisterly bond was strengthened and our trust in each other deepened. We departed with united consensus for justice. Opinions were respected.

I am a wife, mother, an IT professional, and entrepreneur. Currently I serve in state government and higher education. Much of what I do daily is constituent relations, which I absolutely love. My success is heavily dependent upon my ability to negotiate solutions for complicated and knotty problems. I am most effective at what I do when I'm able to find common ground, gain consensus, and achieve favorable outcomes and opportunities.

This same passion is what motivates me to constantly examine the state of my own personal awareness of the plight of others. In our microwave-society, it's easy to become detached from the needs and concerns of others. Overseeing the Justice Portfolio for the League is an opportunity I take very seriously. The

League's national and local commitment to this inconceivably difficult cultural shift is why I accepted this role and it's why I am proud to serve with this sisterhood of amazing advocates for a better South Carolina.

Choosing to embrace an 'awakened' heart is painful but seeking to understand more is a helpful approach. Openness helps us gain a unique insight into the future of justice reform. I deeply appreciate my black history and I also appreciate that I cannot move forward if I immerse too deeply in the pain of past and present evil and hate. Not everyone will ascribe to this approach, but we are each called according to purpose.

As for me, processing the pain and anguish from the racial injustices that black citizens suffer in the name of "justice" is a necessary mechanism for my thinking process. In doing so, I'm better able to divorce myself from the bitterness and shift towards my purpose. I choose to empower myself to control the controllable.

Coping efficiently unleashes a determination to persevere and prevail on this most unreasonable pathway to peace.

Terris S. Riley, Justice Portfolio, LWV/Columbia Area

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HELP WANTED—OBSERVER CORPS IS THE COLUMBIA LEAGUE'S FIRST PRIORITY FOR 2019-20, and we need members

who are willing to observe government meetings and submit a very brief summary using a prepared form. League observers do not speak; they simply report important events. It's interesting and relatively easy. We need to focus especially on the Election Commission and County Council, but members are free to observe other government groups in which they are interested. This is part of the League's "watchdog" role, and local government groups need to know that citizens are paying attention. Members can observe occasionally or regularly on whatever schedule works for them. The reporting form is here: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/SUBMISSION-REVIEW](https://tinyurl.com/submission-review) Contact Lady June Cole (ljcole@islc.net or 803 528-9277) to ask questions or coordinate plans.
Janelle Rivers

OBSERVER CORPS SPIN OFF—better government oversight: The following is an excerpt from a report from Senator Dick Harpootlian to Janelle: "...Last month, I attended the Airport Commission board meeting, in part because I was puzzled by the VIP airport parking pass I received in the mail that granted me free airport parking in a lot adjacent the terminal. During the meeting, the board informed me that members of the legislative delegation receive the passes as "good will." None of the Richland or Lexington legislators commute to the State House via airplane, making these so-called VIP passes purely personal in nature.

I promptly returned my parking pass, and I hope the other members of the Richland and Lexington legislative delegations will do the same.

During the meeting, it was confirmed that the Airport Commission has paid \$457,000 for a three-year contract to use a hospitality box at the Colonial Life Arena, purportedly as part of a package that secures the airport's right to advertise on the jumbotron during events at the arena. I am skeptical of the value of this expenditure as it seems the airport could better spend limited advertising dollars in forums where travelers actually go to look for flights—e.g., websites like Kayak or Orbitz.

More troubling still, it has been reported to me that the hospitality box is primarily being used to entertain Airport Commission board members and their friends and family, not to pursue economic development for the airport...."

LEAGUE MEMBERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LEGISLATURE: In addition to Lynn Teague's uniquely invaluable presence as our (volunteer) lobbyist, the following have responded to Action Alerts:

Thanks to the members of LWV/Columbia who answered the call and helped comprise the overflow crowd for at the hearing on the "**fetal heartbeat abortion ban bill**" (H.3920) in the Constitutional Laws Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee on March 21 in the Blatt Building on the State House grounds.

This bill declares that once a fetal heartbeat can be heard - usually as early as six weeks - an abortion cannot be performed. This is before most women even realize they're pregnant, so this essentially bans all abortions in SC. The bill is unconstitutional and has been struck down by courts in other states.

Three members testified. Kimberly Baker read testimony submitted by a citizen from Murrells Inlet who could not make the trip to Columbia. Professor Laura Woliver and attorney Pat Forbis provided expert testimony on the likelihood of wasting taxpayers' money defending such a bill if it were to pass. Other League members were prepared and registered to testify but were not heard at this meeting due to time constraints.

AND Janelle Rivers, Ph.D., provided expert testimony on behalf of LWV/SC and the local League on **both the House and Senate education bills**. The League supports full funding by the state for substantial salary increases for teachers.

One new accountability feature included in both versions of the bill is that colleges and universities would be required to submit test data for teacher licensure

candidates indicating their level of preparation for the teaching of reading. **Over time, this requirement has the potential to raise the skill level for teacher licensure candidates by publishing the aggregated results for each college or university.**

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MEMBERS' CORNER: SC DESERVES FAST,

MODERN, RELIABLE NEW VOTING SYSTEM: Avery Wilk's February 21 article in *The State* on the cost of a new voting system highlights important issues surrounding South Carolina's need to purchase one. The House Ways and Means Committee was correct to pass an appropriation of \$40 million because this amount should be entirely adequate to purchase what South Carolina needs: a secure modern system based on hand-marked paper ballots, optically scanned and tabulated in each precinct.

The alternative computerized voting systems are not only much more expensive but are also hackable and unreliable. Election security experts nationwide, including the National Academies of Sciences and the Verified Voting Foundation, advise abandoning vulnerable touchscreen electronic voting machines in favor of hand-marked paper ballots as the best method for recording votes in public elections. Seventy percent of American voters now vote on hand-marked paper. South Carolinians also deserve this fast, modern, transparent and reliable system Christe McCoy-Lawrence, Holly Hill, LWV/SC co-president

THANK YOU, ARCADIA LAKES, FOR LEADING THE WAY LOCALLY WITH THE PLASTIC BAG BAN. What good news to read about Arcadia Lakes plastic bag ban!



THE 2019 MIDLANDS GIVES IS FAST APPROACHING! This is an online fundraiser to take place on Tuesday, May 7. The League is raising money for our Education Fund. All donations may be made online on May 7, 2019 at www.midlandsgives.org, or on our own website

www.midlandsgives.org/LWVColumbiaArea. We will be in great company with over 400 Midlands nonprofits participating to raise funds for their programs.

You may also pre-schedule your donation on the site beginning April 23. Your transaction will not be processed until the day of the Midlands Gives event.

Please call or email Anita T. Baker if you can volunteer to attend the Midlands Gives May 7 event at SEGRA Park during any of the following shifts.



The shifts are 5:00 am - 9:00 am, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, 4:00 pm- 7:30 pm, and 10:00 pm - 11:30 pm.

Please call or email Anita T. Baker at 803-414-2564 or abaker31@sc.rr.com. We need plenty of volunteers on May 7. AND Please come out and show your support and enthusiasm for LWV/Columbia Area at this fun and celebratory event. Thank You!

Anita's photo should help volunteers put Anita's name to her face and find her. She will get back in touch with volunteers as additional information regarding parking, location, etc., become available.

Anita Baker is a legacy member (her mother has the same name) and is doing a fantastic job with the upcoming 18-hour Giving event. Ann Maletic

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Websites:

National: www.lwv.org/

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

Columbia: www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Facebook: *To see our Facebook Page:*

1. Go to YOUR Facebook page and begin typing "**League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**" in the search box until a list pops up.
2. Click on the name **League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC** with the familiar blue LWV Logo on the left.

That's it!

Twitter:

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

Facebook and Twitter email address:

[@LWVColumbiaSC](https://twitter.com/LWVColumbiaSC)

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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

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



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) 576-2060 or check:

www.richlandonline.com

