



State Council Handbook

May 2 and May 12, 2020

Conducted via video-conference
May 2 (10:00 a.m.) – Business meeting
May 12 (5:00 p.m.) – Presentation on Primaries in SC

LWVSC 2020 COUNCIL AGENDA	3
COUNCIL RULES	4
LWVSC MEMBERSHIP REPORT	5
LWSC TREASURER'S REPORT (AS OF MARCH 31, 2020)	6
LWVSC Balance Sheet	7
Proposed LWVSC Budget for 2020-2021	8
PROPOSED EMERGENCY AMENDMENT TO PROGRAM	10
REPORTS FROM THE STATE BOARD	12
Co-presidents' Report — Holley Ulbrich & Christe McCoy-Lawrence	12
VP for Issues and Action's Report — Lynn Teague	13
VP for Voters Service's Report — Jane Turner	16
Director for National Issues' Report — Janie Shipley	16
Director for Membership's Report — Joyce Franklin	17
Director for Communications' Report — Jean Wood	18
Director for Redistricting's Report — Matt Saltzman	19
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program's Report — Janie Shipley & Charmaine Clowney	20
Centennial Celebration Coordinator's Report — Keller Barron	21
Savannah River Site Specialist's Report — Suzanne Rhodes	22
REPORTS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES	24
Voter Registration	24
Voter Education Presentations And Other Initiatives	27
Candidate Forums	29
Vote411.org	30
Observer Corps	32
Policy/Issue Presentations	35
Advocacy (Lobby Day, Action Alerts)	38
DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)	40
Centennial	42
Fundraising	45
Other	47
BIOS OF SPEAKERS FOR MAY 12 SESSION	50

LWVSC 2020 COUNCIL AGENDA

May 2 and May 12, 2020

May 2 (10:00 a.m.) — Business Meeting

- Call to Order and Welcome
- Roll Call of Local Leagues
- Introduction of Secretary, Parliamentarian, Monitor, and State Board
- Review of Rules/Adoption of Rules and Agenda
- Credentials Report and Call for Quorum
- Treasurer's Report
- Presentation of Proposed 2020-2021 Budget and Vote to Adopt
- Presentation of Proposed Emergency Amendment to Program and Vote to Adopt
- *For the Good of the Order (advisory observations but no items to be voted on):*
Local League Direction to State Board and State Board Response
- Recognition of Delegates to National Convention
- Adjourn

May 12 (5:00 pm) — Presentation

- Welcome
- "A Primer on South Carolina Primaries" by Gibbs Knotts and Jordan Ragusa, Political Science Department, The College of Charleston (45 minutes)
- Question and answer session (15 minutes)
- Closing

COUNCIL RULES

REPRESENTATION AT COUNCIL

Article VIII, Section 2 of the LWVSC Bylaws states that the Council shall consist of the following voting delegates:

1. The president of each local League or an alternate
2. The chair of each MAL unit or an alternate
3. Two delegates chosen by each local League
4. The members of the State Board

A quorum shall consist of one-third of the delegates registered at the Council other than the members of the state board provided that at least one half of the total number of local Leagues and MAL units are represented.

THE ROLE OF THE DELEGATE TO STATE COUNCIL

Council differs from Convention in that the Council is mainly an advisory body - advisory to the State Board. Most Council business (guidance on present Program, plans for increasing membership, discussion of initiatives for the coming year) is conducted informally as a "committee of the whole." The only matters that are subject to formal approval are adoption of the budget and, very rarely, the adoption of an emergency Program item.

PROCEDURAL RULES

1. All non-delegate League members are welcome as observers but do not have the privilege of the floor or the vote.
2. Delegates must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
3. No delegate may speak twice on a specific issue until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity.
4. The rules for the adoption of a Program item are included in the LWVSC Bylaws: Article VIII, Sec. 4a. Proposed budget amendments are handled similarly to Program amendments. Any suggested budget amendment is to be submitted at least three weeks prior to Council. If non-recommended, it shall require a majority vote of the Council for consideration, and it shall require a two-thirds vote to adopt. The final budget is approved by a majority vote.

The following rules are specific to a video-conferenced meeting.

5. By approving these Rules, the Council delegates accept the legitimacy of this electronic meeting and the decisions made by means of the video technology.
6. The conference Monitor will have the authority to mute the microphones of all participants and unmute them as they are recognized by the presiding Chair.
7. All motions of any length shall be put in writing in the Chat field, signed by the mover, and recorded by the Secretary.
8. Votes will be recorded by poll generated by the video technology; the Monitor will see a tally and the polls results will be also be recorded.
9. During the Local League Direction to State Board and State Board Response section of the agenda, each local Leagues will be recognized in alphabetical order, with each allotted three minutes for its advisory comments, if any.

LWVSC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of January 31, 2020

League	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change ('19-.20)
LWVSC (Includes York County MALs)	19	4	2	16	700%
LWV Beaufort		30	56	59	5.4%
LWV Charleston Area	148	232	295	346	17.3%
LWV Clemson Area	74	112	90	82	-8.9%
LWV Columbia Area	111	154	172	179	4.1%
LWV Darlington County	18	16	21	16	-23.8%
LWV Florence Area	36	32	34	36	5.9%
LWV Georgetown County	10	12	13	14	7.7%
LWV Greenville County	37	90	122	141	15.6%
LWV Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area	119	130	137	178	29.9%
LWV Horry County		13	17	20	17.6%
LWV Spartanburg County	52	58	62	72	16.1%
LWV Sumter County	21	26	26	23	-11.5%
TOTAL	645	909	1047	1182	12.9%

LWSC TREASURER'S REPORT (AS OF MARCH 31, 2020)

LWSC Profit and Loss/Budget v. Actual March 31, 2020

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	YTD	Budget	Budget %
Income															
Donations		504.3		80.01	48.25	1351	2537	325.2	75				4920.76	5223	94.2%
Ed Fund	818.53					790.83							1609.36	6350	25.3%
LWSC Dues			50.19		50.19	48.25	150.57	184.6	200.19				683.99	0	
PMP	3139.5	1739	224	3570	598.5	1715	1157	267.8					12410.8	12971	95.7%
PPFM Grant				1500									1500	0	
Sales	8.14		20	204			160.6	95.35					488.09	1050	46.5%
Special Events/100th													0	1000	
State Meetings						386.61	1665	25					2076.61	4000	51.2%
Miscellaneous		50.19		50.19		10							110.38	500	22.1%
Total Income	3966	2293.49	294.19	5404.2	696.94	4301.65	5670.17	897.95	275.19	0	0	0	23799.8	31,094	76.5%
Expense															
Advocacy				35	156		380		50.47				621.47	2000	31.1%
Board Expenses	234.91		182.28		245.03				181.5				843.72	800	105.5%
Communications				2859		1783.05	32.09	32.09	1971				6677.27	8130	82.1%
Contract Employee		590	285	20	390	405	50	1085	100				2925	4000	73.1%
Cost of Sales				9.25									9.25	0	
Donations								1000	250				1250	0	
Fees		600				2275	27						2902	0	
Transfer to Ed Fund							48.25						48.25	0	
Fundraising Expense						475.67	934.43						1410.1	0	
Local League Support													0	3500	0.0%
LWVUS PMP	64												64	64	100.0%
Membership				34.71									34.71	0	
Office Expense			27	62.35	17.95	43.31	31.03	36.33					217.97	550	39.6%
PPFM Grant							283.55						283.55	0	
Special Events/100th													0	1000	0.0%
State/Natl Meetings					500		1141	466					2107	8000	26.3%
Voter Service													0	2500	0.0%
Miscellaneous		50		100			117	134.18	50				451.18	550	82.0%
Total Expense	298.91	1240	494.3	3120.31	1308.98	4982.07	3044.35	2753.6	2602.97	0	0	0	19845.4	31,094	63.8%
Net Income (loss)	3667.09	1053.49	-200.11	2283.89	-612.04	-680.38	2625.82	-1855.65	-2327.78	0	0	0	3954.33		

LWVSC Balance Sheet

as of March 31, 2020

Assets

Cash

Synovus Non-Profit Checking Account	\$11,534.48
-------------------------------------	-------------

Synovus Commercial Premium Money Market Fund	\$12,234.55
--	-------------

Depreciable Assets	0
--------------------	---

Total Assets	\$23,759.03
--------------	--------------------

Liabilities	0
--------------------	----------

Fund Balance/Net Assets	\$23,759.03
--------------------------------	--------------------

Proposed LWVSC Budget for 2020-2021

INCOME

Per Member Payments (PMP)	14,427
Beaufort	763
Charleston	4,368
Clemson	917
Columbia	2,163
Darlington	210
Florence	476
Georgetown	189
Greenville	1,547
Hilton Head/Bluffton	2,338
Horry County	266
Spartanburg	910
Sumter	280
LWVSC Dues	400
Donations	13,300
Sales	900
State Meetings	21,250
Miscellaneous	424
Total Income	50,701

EXPENSES

Advocacy	2,000
Board Expenses	1900
Comunications	7,550
Website	400
SC Voter	6,500

MailChimp	400
Zoom	150
Facebook	100
Voter Service	1,300
Contract Employee	4,300
Local League Support	2,500
LWVUS Per Member Payments (PMP)	448
Membership	600
Issues Education	200
Cost of Sales	325
Office Expense	600
State & National Meetings	23,250
Fundraising	5,000
Contributions	250
Miscellaneous	478
Total Expenses	50,701

PROPOSED EMERGENCY AMENDMENT TO PROGRAM

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT POSITION

(2017-2019 Agenda for Action 2017-2019, p.

Please note: (1) the text in green was approved at Convention 2019; (2) the format but not meaning of the position has been rearranged for clarity; and (3) language to be added is in red.

Effective Local Government and Home Rule

LWVSC supports effective and empowered local government, as established in the S.C. Constitution, Chapter 8, Section 17, which states that “the provisions of this Constitution and all laws concerning local government shall be liberally construed in their favor. Powers, duties, and responsibilities granted local government subdivisions by this Constitution and by law shall include those fairly implied and not prohibited by this Constitution.” These powers, duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

1. Providing for additional options for the structure, methods of election and/or appointment and financing of local government bodies, including councils and commissions, in Accordance with Article VIII of the S.C. Constitution (Home Rule).
2. Creating annexation regulations for municipalities that:
 - a. Permit city-initiated annexation. A referendum of resident voters in the area to be annexed shall take place only if there is a petition against the annexation.
 - b. Permit unilateral city-initiated annexation in the case of enclaves.
 - c. Provide for annexation by petition of the property owners in the area proposed to be annexed or by a combination wherein residents who are registered voters are given equal standing as petitioners with property owners.
 - d. Establish procedures and criteria for annexation.
 - e. Address the disposition of the property of public service and special purpose districts in annexed areas.
3. Permitting consolidation as an alternative to annexation.
4. Placing no constitutional limit on local debt authorization other than that the debt be incurred in pursuit of law.

5. Requiring that changes in the structures of the school board and/or consolidating, splitting, or redrawing school district lines should be subject to a referendum by the voters in the affected school district(s).

6. Empowering local governments to regulate issues that are primarily local.

REPORTS FROM THE STATE BOARD

Co-presidents' Report — Holley Ulbrich & Christe McCoy-Lawrence

State board started our year with a retreat in Columbia in July where we set goals and planned the calendar for the year. We had reorganized our board structure before the May Convention, introducing a director of national issues, among other things. The Convention in Charleston had bestowed on us a lot of energizing follow-up work. The issues of focusing our advocacy efforts, establishing working groups, weighing the print vs. electronic *SC Voter*, helping with fledgling Leagues in Aiken and York County, building a new website, organizing and administering LEAD and Council, ensuring full coverage for Vote411, coordinating plans for celebrating our anniversary, strengthening our fundraising, and initiating more regular communication with local Leagues were some of the items on our lists.

1. Advocacy — Election safety during the pandemic is now our primary focus, but for most of the year our advocacy efforts sharply focused on redistricting — although K-12 education, ERA, voting rights, the census, “con con” (proposals to call a national constitutional convention), women’s contraception availability, the “fetal heartbeat” bill, dark money, and other issues also were given attention in our citizen educational programming as well as in the Statehouse and through action alerts.
2. Working groups—the Redistricting working group has done great work this year in education and advocacy, including the very well attended Lobby Day in Columbia. The Gender and Racial Equity group is still looking for more leadership, but there was a lot of effort for one particular issue: ERA. The Education group got off to a slow start, but is now trying to provide information about the contents and significance of the education bills that passed the House and Senate and are awaiting reconciliation. We did advocate on several education issues—funding and vouchers specifically. The Natural Resources group has been monitoring the many environmental developments that are important to South Carolina and the nation.
3. The *SC Voter*—after extensive research by our Communications Committee, including a poll of our members, the board concluded unanimously that there is an important role for the print *SC Voter* with the electronic version also made readily available. About 100 of our members do not have email. The *SC Voter* is a marketing tool, something to hand to prospective members. Legislators are unlikely to pay any attention to an electronic newsletter. And people experience print and electronic differently. For all these reasons and more, we chose to give people an option to receive either or both, with print being the default if no request was made. The March issue was the first one distributed in this way; there will be ongoing adjustments to the mailing list.
4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)— with guidance from LWVUS, we launched an initiative to emphasize and increase DEI in the LWVSC. The program is under the capable direction of our Director for National Issues and a State DEI Coordinator. Local Leagues are in the process of assessing their local situations and developing plans.
5. Fundraising — in spite of lacking a dedicated Director of Fundraising on the board this year, we gave a good bit of thought to expanding, strengthening, and diversifying our fundraising strategy. We added a tear-off donation request form to the *SC Voter*, we decided to conduct three (for now) formal appeals (Nov-December, April-May, and August-Sept.), and we explored best practices for electronic appeals. We are very interested in coordinating the timing of appeals with our local Leagues; we suggested a plan for doing that back in January and look forward to continuing discussions. Our fundraising landscape will change significantly when

our 501(c)3 status is confirmed. We also have recently learned that the professional developer who has helped us a great deal when we have consulted her during the past couple of years is now available to work with us on a consistent basis! We have already discussed with her some immediate plans and continuing development of our fundraising strategy.

6. Website — A major initiative this year has been building a new website since the EasyWeb platform is being discontinued this summer. We fortunately have a Communications Director who has a strong IT background and who has taken on this job, but all board members have had responsibilities in reviewing and updating content.
7. Membership — unfortunately, the fledgling MAL Unit in Aiken has dissolved, although we still have a group of individual members-at-large there whom we hope will find new leadership. On a happier note, a Member-At-Large (MAL) Unit has been organized in York County that has lots of energy and a good, diverse community base from Winthrop University, the African-American community, and retirees in the Fort Mill Area. Horry County has “graduated” from MAL Unit status to a local League, and our state membership is now almost 1,200.
8. Communications — we initiated monthly meetings of the two co-presidents and all the local League leaders via video conference (with phone access also allowed). This has greatly enhanced our communications with the local Leagues and enabled their leaders to become more familiar with each other and to share questions, solutions, and ideas on a regular basis. An additional state board member has participated on occasion, when helpful on a particular topic. This channel is now part of our multi-pronged communications strategy, which comprises these video calls, electronic Mailchimps (informational as well as both targeted and general action alerts), quarterly print newsletters, our website, social media activity, and monthly legislative update membership conference calls during session.
9. LEAD was successful and well attended. Kim Baker, our part-time administrative assistant, did an superb job and we had lots of help, especially from Suzanne Rhodes and the Columbia League, and Grace Gifford from Horry County. Speakers on redistricting and the 100th anniversary were well received, the venue and food got high marks, and the round tables generated lots of ideas as well as a statewide Vote411 team to work with Jane Turner, our VP for Voter Services.
10. Council 2020 was converted to a virtual platform because of the pandemic; we are holding a business meeting on May 2 (the original date set for our Columbia meeting) and an educational meeting on Tuesday, May 12, for a presentation on S.C. primaries that had been planned as part of the original program.
11. VOTE411 —the State Board again offered partial funding for local Leagues doing Vote 411. All of our Congressional districts are covered. Suggested questions for candidates for US House and Senate and the General Assembly were developed and shared with local Leagues.
12. Centennial — we received a proclamation by Governor McMaster and resolutions in the House and Senate, recognizing our 100th anniversary. Keller Barron helped local Leagues plan and coordinate their many individual programs and events. A celebration march is planned for August in Columbia under the leadership of Laura Woliver and the Columbia League.

VP for Issues and Action’s Report — Lynn Teague

At present elections are front and center for the LWVSC. We are very concerned about the effects of COVID-19 on the safety of voters and poll workers during our elections. We have advocated no-excuse early voting for many years. Sadly, the current bill for this purpose, S.142, died in Senate Judiciary Committee subcommittee last year. In the absence of a widely available safe and effective vaccine, no 2020 election is safe under current conditions. Also, S.867, which would have permitted

more time to count absentee ballots (needed given the new voting systems, essential in the pandemic) died through opposition from Rep. Nancy Mace in House subcommittee.

We have written to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate urging them to act to make our elections safer by implementing universal voting by mail or, if that is not possible, no excuse early voting or expanded absentee voting. So far there has been no response. The Governor has the authority to postpone the June primaries but says he does not intend to do so. The General Assembly would have to act to expand voting options and has shown no inclination to do so.

Having passed a bill to finance DHEC responses to COVID-19, the South Carolina General Assembly is currently on furlough subject to the call of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. They are not expected to reconvene for several weeks, and when they do it will be under serious protective measures and a shortened agenda. However, we continue to press for legislative action.

With respect to other issues addressed in 2020, many bills that were filed and even many that were moving forward successfully will not be sufficiently attractive to justify extended exposure to potential infection by legislators. So where are we? The bad news is that good bills are mostly doomed. The good news is that the bad bills are mostly doomed.

In 2020 we have supported as our highest priorities:

- H.3054 — **Redistricting**. This bill provides for an independent commission to draw Congressional and General Assembly district lines, and outlines criteria that exclude protection of incumbents or parties. This bill has not received a subcommittee hearing and no testimony has been given. However, the League has distributed information on its concerns and position and focused on this bill during its February 2020 lobby day.
- H.4203 and H.3045 – **Dark Money**. These bills require disclosure of donors to organizations that engage in electioneering. In 2019 these bills received a subcommittee hearing and testimony was given. Unfortunately, these bills died and were never debated in full House Judiciary Committee. The opposition to these reforms remains very strong, including from leaders of the state Republican Party who do not want to reinstate requirements that party committees and caucuses report their donors.

We also have been very engaged with advocacy on:

- Senate Committee on **Education Funding Reform** – An ad hoc committee was convened to explore the important issues around education funding in South Carolina, to draft a bill to be filed in 2021 for general reform of secondary education funding in South Carolina. We are fortunate in that Holley Ulbrich, our LWVSC co-president and a respected economist, specializes in South Carolina local and state government revenues. She wrote and testified extensively to the committee.

We have been working in opposition to:

- H.3125 and S.125 – These are **resolutions to call for a federal constitutional convention** under Article V of the US Constitution, with the goals of requiring “fiscal restraint” and balanced budgets, term limits, and substantial reduction of the scope and powers of the federal government. This suite of demands has long been associated with right wing groups that have opposed as federal “overreach” everything from school integration to taxation in support of a social safety net.

We testified against these in the House and wrote testimony for a Senate subcommittee that devoted its entire first meeting to hearing from supporters of the bill and did not reconvene to hear any other testimony, including any testimony in opposition.

- S. 556 – This bill would **divert public secondary education funds to private school scholarship**. The League, which strongly supports public education, regards this effort as potentially very damaging to providing a sound education to all of South Carolina’s children, and has submitted written testimony in opposition to this bill.
- H.3020– This bill is commonly, and erroneously, called the “fetal heartbeat bill” which misrepresents its contents. It **would criminalize abortion as early as six weeks** after conception when many women don’t even know that they are pregnant and when, in fact, there is no heart and no heartbeat.

We provided testimony on additional important bills.

- S.901 and S.918 - These resolutions in support **the Equal Rights Amendment** received a subcommittee hearing before South Carolina’s four women senators, all of whom co-sponsored S. 918. The bills progressed no further. Testimony in support was given by Laura Woliver, Columbia League president and scholarly expert on women in politics and in particular women in South Carolina in political life.
- S.1129 - We also provided written testimony to a committee addressing badly needed **reforms of the governance of the Public Service Authority**, which oversees Santee Cooper. Our testimony was focused on accountability and good government issues.
- H.3279 and S.187 - **Contraception Access**. We worked for passage of H.3279 and S.187, bills that would require both private and public insurers to allow women to receive up to 12 months of contraceptive access at once. Where this has been done it has greatly reduced unintended pregnancies and therefore has done far more to prevent abortions than the efforts of “pro-life” advocates. We did not have hearings on these bills but, through the efforts of Rep. Beth Bernstein and Rep. Kirkman Finlay, negotiated an agreement that would permit women receiving Medicaid through Managed Care Options (provided by private insurers) to receive six months of contraception at once. Fee for Service Medicaid already permits twelve month dispensing. All, of course, would be at the discretion of physicians.

After more than six years, the LWVSC terminated its involvement in the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) compliance project run first by Project Vote and Demos, later by Demos. Although the goal was worthwhile, the project was doomed by erratic and irresponsible behavior from the lead organizations. They failed to conduct their work in a way that would lead to progress toward meeting the project goals, and their ‘lack of focus’ (quote from Demos lead attorney) put the credibility of LWVSC at serious risk. LWVSC adopted revised guidelines on partnerships and coalitions to protect against similar experiences in the future.

VP for Voters Service's Report — Jane Turner

In 2019 and January and February of 2020, most of the voter service activities involved voter registration events —especially with 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 registering 75 or more students at events. Registration events held at colleges and universities also had large numbers of students registering to vote. Voter registrations were also held on National Voter Registration Day, at community events and at Naturalization Ceremonies. But this all had to stop when the coronavirus closed schools, then social distancing started and additional closings of nonessential business. Hopefully, people who need to register will go online.

In 2019, the elections involved county councils, city council and mayors and town councils and mayors as well as school boards. Several Local Leagues held Candidate Forums. Some of these were covered by local newspaper and television reporters. Most of the Local Leagues did enter their races into VOTE411. A few Local Leagues did not participate in VOTE411 in 2019 for various reasons.

In the LWVSC Spring VOTER, on page 6, an article from the Darlington League announced their CD version of the high school curriculum developed by the Columbia LWV on WHY VOTING IS IMPORTANT and HOW TO REGISTER. Darlington is making this CD available to all the South Carolina Leagues. If your League would like to obtain a copy of this CD, please contact Portia McJunkin by email or text message at amar170@aol.com. A \$3 donation is requested to cover the cost of the CD along with postage and handling. Individuals may pay by check made out to the Darlington LWV.

This year at the LEAD meeting in Columbia on January 25, League members working on VOTE411 had a Round Table Discussion on how to do VOTE411 as well as issues with the software and how to increase the use by the voting public. Everyone agreed that this group needed to continue working together. This group did continue, added additional members, and started to coordinate VOTE411 activities. Getting a list of everyone involved across the state is still in progress. We confirmed that this year the US Senate and US House races were covered. Then the group started sharing possible questions for candidates, including recommendations of how many questions to ask each candidate. And the group is now working to determine the VOTE411 coverage of state and local races in the state. We have been mainly using email to communicate.

Director for National Issues' Report — Janie Shipley

This is the first full year of the existence of the National Issues Director position on the Board of LWVSC. Following is a summary of some of the activities/issues with which the National Issues Director has dealt.

Among the national issues from LWVUS brought to the attention of local SC Leagues by the LWVSC National Issues Director in the past year were:

- Webinars, e.g. policy briefing on *For the People Act, HR1*, multiple DEI webinars, policy webinar on *Get Out the Count*, webinars on digital communication during COVID-19
- Availability of updated *Impact on Issues 2018-2020*
- Fundraising modules from LWVUS to assist local Leagues in fund development

- LWVUS educational materials, e.g. Money in Politics Toolkit, Toolkit for Climate Action, 100th Anniversary Toolkit, Census Action Kit, COVID Guidance Resource
- Information on DC Statehood
- Grants available from LWVUS to local Leagues

Other activities:

- Attended LWVUS National Council in Summer 2019
- Coordinated with LWVUS in getting SC “on board” with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program, including recruiting State Coordinator, Charmaine Clowney; consulted with Clowney and national Shur Fellow Martha Pint as self-assessments and action templates were designed and implemented
- Participated in monthly “check-in” with LWVSC Co-Presidents and LWVUS staffer

Activation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program in SC consumed a significant investment of time by the National Issues Director. See separate DEI Report.

Director for Membership’s Report — Joyce Franklin

MAL Units

Membership has been very busy this year. Our new 2019 Aiken MAL fell on hard times and, despite many efforts to help, was not able to stabilize and sustain itself. That was a hard disappointment. On a more cheerful note, extensive efforts in the Rock Hill area have led to the organization of a MAL Unit in York County. Holley, Christe, Lynn, and I made several trips to Rock Hill and Fort Mill, between May and December 2019 to present programs and answer questions about the League. And Karen Mitchell (President, LWV of Spartanburg) travelled to Rock Hill with Darcell Davis-Williams to present information about redistricting and voter service. As a result, we have something exciting to celebrate!! The LWV of York County MAL Unit has ten official members and three officers (and over thirty on their email list of interested people) and was about to launch an ambitious series of voter registration events when the pandemic closed everything down. We look forward to York County’s participation in our collegial relationship and mutual work to Make Democracy Work.

Storybank

Storybank is and has been an effective way of recruiting new members. Once you share your story of how you became involved in the League and how it has affected your life, other people become interested in joining the League.

The League has some tools for you to use in developing and telling your story. Currently we are putting together a project that focuses on combining all South Carolina League members sharing their stories for our state storybank.

Some members have started the process, submitted their stories with an attached photo, and a notebook featuring these stories is being developed.

To start writing your story, go to storybank@lww.org.

Youth Membership

Our youth need to know how the system works and how they may get involved now and when they become adults. Because of their involvement in school and school activities, they may not be able to join the League in regular meetings and membership. So, we propose developing workshops to educate them and recruit their memberships.

Can we develop “Civics” workshops for weekends, summer sessions, spring break, after school, and etc. Let’s look at ways we can creatively reach out to our youth. Share your ideas and suggestions so that we can work as a team to involve them.

Director for Communications' Report — Jean Wood

The Communications team is a many-faceted, multi-directional series of lights that shine on the state and local Leagues, which together illuminate a strong communications platform.

Linda Powers Bilanchone edits our quarterly issue of the *SC Voter*. She makes assignments, sets deadlines, and receives submissions. She edits each article for clarity, grammar, and spelling, and provides basic “polishing.” Then she sends it all to Christine Prado (our volunteer professional graphic artist) for layout and formatting (eye candy). Christine gets an updated membership file and sends the *SC Voter* template to the printer who prepares, prints, and distributes the printed *SC Voter*.

At convention this past year, the delegates revisited the issue of digital vs print media in regards to the distribution of the *SC Voter*. As part of a complete study of the issue, the Communications Committee, advised by Christe McCoy-Lawrence and Holley Ulbrich, sought feedback from the entire state membership on how they wished to receive their *SC Voter*. The options were mailed hard-copy, emailed digital copy, or both methods. Results were tabulated and the mechanisms needed to handle the preferences were put in place in time for the Spring *SC Voter*. There have been very few complaints. Current membership delivery preference was one among a number of important factors included in the ultimate study, which was submitted to the Board in November 2019. The issue of print vs digital was researched from many angles as were the particular ways the *SC Voter* functions as a communications tool for LWVSC. All these considerations were weighed in the Board's unanimous approval of the study's recommendations that the print *SC Voter* be retained.

The second light of the communications platform is our Mailchimp communications. Nancy Moore handles this area which includes informational Mailchimps and Action Alerts.

- Mailchimps are used to disseminate information that is best suited to electronic communications: short, bullet-pointed “e-blasts,” dates of immediate, upcoming events, links to materials available on our website, etc. Mailchimps distribute League quick information that is needed by the membership in a timely, but limited (because of the desirability of brevity in electronic communications) manner.
- In addition, Nancy works with our VP for Issues and Action, Lynn Teague, to time and target specific legislators and legislation for advocacy. Nancy devised the database information that allows us to reach out to specific League members as constituents of specific legislators. Members can then advocate on issues directly with their “major player.” She can also target the entire membership for Action Alerts that provide key information on each member's legislator such as name, phone, address, and talking points for grass roots work by members.

Another light is the Monthly Zoom conference calls that the co-presidents have instituted this year with the local League leaders; these have greatly strengthened communications with the local league leaders, and them with each other. These calls have enabled us to keep the local League leaders apprised of current developments and to answer questions that arise in the course of each month. Local League leaders also have an opportunity to share information and resources, to get to know each other, and to hear about the activities and concerns of other local Leagues. The establishment of these regular calls has been a major addition to our communications strategy during 2019-2020.

Social Media posts, such as on Facebook, help us reach a wide audience beyond even the League membership. Lynn Teague and Christe McCoy-Lawrence post timely information and articles on a daily basis and sometimes “boost” articles to broaden readership. The LWVSC Facebook page

reaches thousands of viewers, including many whom we do not reach through our Mailchimps and *SC Voter* communications. In addition, we look forward to expanded opportunities for reaping donations from social media when our 501(c)3 status is confirmed.

Lynn Teague, VP for Issues and Action, shines a light on the S.C. Statehouse by providing regularly scheduled Legislative Update Calls. All members are welcome to call in on every third Monday during session and hear Lynn's candid assessment of Statehouse action (and inaction) regarding, in particular, bills that we are especially concerned about. Through this medium, members can keep abreast of developments and the progress of LWVSC interests in the Statehouse in a much more immediate way than is provided through other means.

The state League website is a final, and major, area of illumination. Work is currently going on with two websites at once. The existing website (lwvsc.org) is still providing information, resources, and our link to the WWW. The second website is a work in process. My.lwv.org is the new platform for our website. A whole new look, energy, and enhancements will come with the new website. We will be retiring the current website on June 30th of this year and will be bringing online the new (improved) website July 1st. Several local Leagues in South Carolina have already made the transition to the new platform. They are Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area, Greenville County, Beaufort, SC Area, and Columbia Area. Congratulations to all of them.

Submitted by

Linda Powers Bilanchone

Nancy Moore

Jean Wood

Communications Director: Editor, *SC Voter*

Communications Director: Database Technology

Communications Director

Director for Redistricting's Report — Matt Saltzman

With delegates from almost every local league in South Carolina, the redistricting workgroup has been active in pushing reform across the state over the past few months. Although we will not report on every event, we would like to share some highlights:

- LWV Greenville made multiple presentations to their legislative delegation on the need for redistricting reform
- LWV Hilton Head held public forums and utilized media connections to garner local press coverage
- LWV Columbia and LWV Florence were among Leagues who made connections with a new partner, SC Women in Leadership, and held joint events educating attendees on gerrymandering and the importance of the census
- LWV Charleston held an advocacy training tied to good governance issues, including gerrymandering. They also partnered with the Bertelsmann Foundation to screen the premier of the film "Uncivil War" and held a panel afterwards that discussed gerrymandering.
- Almost all local leagues held "People Powered Fair Maps" postcard parties, where attendees sent postcards to their representatives and senators, asking for redistricting reform.
- Almost every local league sent attendees to our Lobby Day in February, which was part of a national day of action to celebrate the LWV Centennial and bring attention to the need for redistricting reform.
- Local leagues were also active in distributing our People Powered Fair Maps fliers at their events at a time of increased visibility around our Centennial.

Some other redistricting-related developments deserve mention:

- The legislative effort to create an independent redistricting commission is at a standstill at this time and is not expected to be revived in time for the next mapping exercise in 2021.
- Matt Saltzman, Lynn Teague, and Duncan Buell met in January with South Carolina legislative staffers. The meeting was productive, with staffers indicating that they are in favor of running an open process with public input. We expect the dialogue with legislative staff to continue as the process unfolds.
- Saltzman's graduate students, Blake Splitter and Anna Marie Vagnozzi, have completed their master's degree requirements (a research project report and a thesis, respectively). We will be working with the League and with Clemson University to finalize a report to the public on the results of those studies. Briefly, there are not strong indications of the sort of highly partisan gerrymandering that have resulted in lawsuits challenging maps in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and elsewhere.
- The Clemson research group expects to continue research and to contribute to the mapping process in 2021. The League is considering purchase of mapping software to support that effort.

While the road to redistricting reform was always uphill, we are incredibly grateful for the hard work and genuine effort that the redistricting group members and the research team have taken in support of our efforts. Because of work group volunteers, many more South Carolinians are aware of gerrymandering's long-term impacts, and they will be paying attention when lines are drawn so they can hold their lawmakers accountable. The work this group has done has strengthened the connections between the local Leagues in SC, as well as gained us new partnerships, additional visibility, fundraising opportunities, and a heightened sense of our shared goals.

Our work is on a bit of a hiatus over the summer; we will discuss ways to once again increase visibility around the redistricting process this winter before the map-drawing process begins. (Due to COVID-19, the timing is in question, as Census officials have asked to delay the reporting timeline.)

Once again, we would like to express sincere gratitude to all of those on the workgroup: Dyan Cohen, Janelle Rivers, Joanne Day, Kirsten Abrahamson, Beverly Sullivan, Catherine Forester, Michelle Byrne, MaryAnn Bromley, Mike Ellison, Nancy Rodgers, Melissa Lewis, and Roberta Gunderson. Other important contributors to our effort include John Ruoff, Duncan Buell, Anna Marie Vagnozzi, and Blake Splitter.

Submitted by: Matthew Saltzman, Director for Redistricting
Shayna Howell, Co-chair of Redistricting Workgroup

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program's Report — Janie Shipley & Charmaine Clowney

Activation of the LWV Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program in SC consumed a significant investment of time by the National Issues Director and the State DEI Coordinator, Charmaine Clowney. The following summarizes those activities.

Participation in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program sponsored by LWVUS took off in 2019. In spring of '19, we identified a state coordinator, Charmaine Clowney, J.D. (from LWV Columbia) and were assigned a Shur Fellow, Martha Pint from LWV Kansas. Monthly consultations with Pint were begun in April '19.

Events featuring C. Clowney: introduced as State Coordinator at LWVSC State Convention, May '19; conducted diversity training for LWVSC Board and LWV Hilton Head Island/Bluffton in Nov. and Dec. 2019; reported on DEI to LEAD, Jan '20.

Activities led by C. Clowney:

- led the development of Self-Assessment survey, sent through Survey Monkey to local Leagues in September '19, to determine a baseline of current actions that local Leagues are undertaking related to DEI;
- completed state self-assessment, using input from local Leagues in October '19;
- led the design of the action template, requesting that local Leagues choose two actions they could complete in next three months; the template was mailed to local Leagues in early 2020.

Other DEI activities: The LWVSC state board adopted a diversity statement in March '19; that statement is posted on the homepage of LWVSC

Centennial Celebration Coordinator's Report — Keller Barron

“Creating a More Perfect Democracy”

This is an auspicious year ! Two Centennials: the passage of the 19th amendment enfranchising women and the founding of an organization to continue the momentum: the League of Women Voters. To commemorate the founding of the LWV, Governor Henry McMaster proclaimed February 2020, League of Women Voters Centennial Month.

On July 19, 2019, we began our Celebration plans with a “kick-off” luncheon meeting of representatives of the local leagues to discuss Centennial opportunities. We began by “Getting to Know You.” Each league shared their membership, budget, one activity, member communication information, and Centennial plans. We determined we could learn so much from each other that we would collaborate by an exchange of newsletters and ideas. As a result, we developed the list, LWVSC Local League Centennial Celebration Contacts, 2019- 2020, for use by local leagues.

The Leagues have enjoyed delightful activities! Soirees and receptions, books and discussions, film festivals and celebrity panels, fund-raisers and playlets, songs and costumes and an outdoor wall mural in Spartanburg honoring the Grimke sisters. To commemorate the founding of the LWV, Governor Henry McMaster proclaimed February 2020 to be League of Women Voters Centennial Month. It is our expectation that these activities will culminate in a Centennial Parade and Rally in Columbia on August 22, led by the Columbia League and joined by our compatriots.

Let's celebrate the past as we reimagine the future!

FACT: Population projections for 2024 are 173 million women and 167 million men.

What would the Suffragists have to say about that?

Savannah River Site Specialist's Report — Suzanne Rhodes

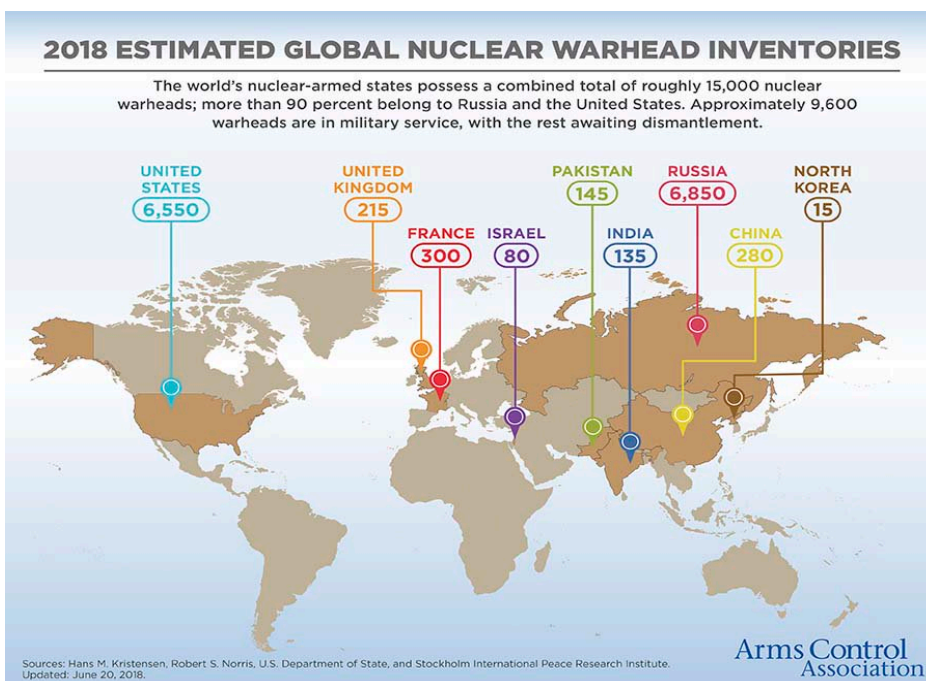
TANK NEWS: The task of closing Cold War waste tanks is making slow progress. Both Governor Haley and the Department of Energy (DOE) have called these tanks “the state’s single largest environmental threat.” The most recent closure was December 2019; the next tank closure is scheduled for 2024.

The unnecessary proposal to truck liquid wastes to SRS from Ontario (where they previously had been safely solidified) appears to have been accomplished, although subsequent treatment details at the 50-year-old SRS H Canyon are not clear. German wastes will stay in Germany. Japanese and weapons plutonium remain at SRS, apparently because it is a large site (310 square miles), and there are few other options. The once-proposed Yucca Mountain geological storage site for high-level nuclear wastes has unresolvable geologic, transport, and political challenges. Most wastes received and/or generated at SRS are likely to stay at SRS for the foreseeable future. Most other nuclear wastes in the US will likely stay where they are generated until a more permanent technical and political plan has been developed. DOE and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have supported “temporary” storage for a variety of nuclear wastes, including commercial spent fuel, along the Texas/New Mexico border.

POTENTIALLY TERRIBLE NEWS: An arm of DOE has issued a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) regarding a proposal to manufacture plutonium pits at SRS for nuclear warhead cores of “refreshed” bombs. This venture has already encouraged other countries to develop new delivery missiles and weapons, which none can afford, and which risk a nuclear arms race. Past pit manufacturing at DOE sites has proved messy both on- and off-site, resulting in a Superfund site to be isolated and monitored closely even after “cleanup.” The EIS addresses risks to workers and the community and how it would “significantly” increase volumes of similar waste already produced and stored, but not treated, at SRS – an additional doubling or tripling of existing weapons wastes. Long-standing LWV/US non-proliferation policies clearly defend our opposition to this proposal. About 12 tons of surplus weapons plutonium was once proposed to be manufactured into fuel for commercial nuclear power plants. That vision, the “Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility” or MOX, became years

behind schedule, way over budget, as well as QA/QC problems. It was finally canceled in 2018, despite enthusiastic support of our local delegation to Congress and the unbridled community interest in jobs. In sum – making plutonium pits at the former MOX site is a risky unnecessary proposal, and an appalling example for our world, already oversupplied with warheads. This proposal violates decades of League and international non-proliferation policies and agreements.

The draft SRS EIS was announced on April 3 and is open for public



comment for approximately 45 days. LWV/SC plans to comment, and perhaps to ask for an extended comment period.

This unnecessary, complicated, unfunded, and risky proposal assumes the MOX building at SRS is worthy, almost assures that more plutonium will be shipped to SRS, assumes Congress will appropriate billions of funds for decades, and encourages a new nuclear arms race.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL LEAGUES

Voter Registration

Beaufort

12 Voter Registration Drives; we did not keep track of registration #s for each event.

- April 20 - Soft Shell Crab Fest – Port Royal (LWVB table – Voter registration)
- May 25 – Gullah Festival LWVB table
- July 20 – Water Fest Nonprofit Expo (LWVB table – voter registration)
- Aug 10 – Back to School Expo, 8:30-2:30, Battery Creek HS
- Aug 15 - Back to School Night - LWVB table – voter registration
 - o Robert Smalls International Academy - 5 - 7:30pm
 - o Whale Branch Early College High School - Thursday 5 – 7pm
- Aug 16 - Back to School Night - Battery Creek High School - Friday 5:30 - 7:30pm - LWVB table – voter registration (100registrations)
- Aug 24 – United Church Community Cookout – 12:00- 6pm - LWVB table – voter registration (3 Registrations)
- Aug 30/31 – Lands End Woodlands Festival – LWVB table – voter registration
- Oct 26 – LWVB table – voter registration
 - o Celebrating Citizenship in Beaufort, Beaufort Waterfront Park , 2-4pm
 - o OktoPRfest – Port Royal - 11-5pm
- Jan 30 - Battery Creek High School Voter Registration (25 Registrations)

Charleston

- Registering new voters

We've held 40 voter registration events during this time period, registering more than 1000 new voters. These events took place at high school and college campuses, community fairs, festivals, open houses, retirement centers, community organizations, church groups, candidate forums, and, of course, on National Voter Registration Day.

These events were often preceded by League members training student and community groups who carried out the registration events on their campuses under the supervision of faculty and League members.

As in 2019, the LWVCA received a Youth Grant from the LWV Education Fund in 2020 to focus on registering and getting out the youth vote in communities of color. Our network of partners in these communities has widened to include Latinx as well as African American groups. We are using the funds for materials in English and Spanish for working in schools and creating videos to get out the vote. Since the pandemic outbreak the LWVUS has extended the deadline to use these funds until the end of the 2020 year. We hope to use these funds in the fall leading up to National Voter Registration Day and the November election.

- **Naturalization Ceremony Registration Events**

Our Naturalization Ceremony Coordinator, Jacky Sassard, reports that her League team has participated in approximately 150 naturalization ceremonies during this time period, though all ceremonies have ceased since March. She estimates that they've shared voter registration information with approximately 4000 new citizens. These new citizens are residents of both Georgia and South Carolina, so information for both states are available. The Naturalization team applied for and received a New Citizens Grant from the LWV Education Fund in 2020. This grant will pay for printing of the considerable amount of materials they share with new citizens.

Clemson

10 area high schools, 517 registered
3 universities (CU, SWU, Anderson U): 273 registered
1 disabled person assisted
19 events, 790 registered
Spearheaded by member Cheryl Lee

Columbia

VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS 2019-2020 LWVCA

9-7-2019: Columbia NAACP Yard Sale: Laura Woliver, Elizabeth Jones and Charmaine Clowney voter registration during the Columbia NAACP Yard Sale event.

9-15-2019: Allen University Democracy Day: Elizabeth Jones joined by Rachel Dieter a voter registration drive at Allen University, Columbia, SC. Twelve new voters were registered, and one change of address.

9-17-2019: Spring Valley High School: Sharon Ayling, Robert Ayling, and others voter registration at Spring Valley High.

9-21-2019: Columbia, S.C. Jubilee Festival/Historic Columbia Foundation: Laura Woliver, Lala Steelman and Mark Binkley voter registration.

9-24-2019: National Voter Registration Day: Woliver, Lala Carr Steelman, and Ashley Harrington (USC undergrad) registered students at Preston College dormitory on UofSC campus.

9-28-2019 Irmo Okra Strut: Elizabeth Jones conducted voter registration during this event.

10-19-2019: LWV members Gladys Cole, Nancy Kreml and Charmaine Clowney were scheduled to register voters at the HUSH No More Domestic Violence Walk & Community Outreach event. Due to heavy rain, event cancelled. A valuable LWV community relationship established.

Nov 2019: Charmaine Clowney registered voters at Dreher High School.

Oct 2019: The LWVCA helped with voter registration and education, and distributed materials about vote411 at the Soda City Farmer's Market.

Oct 2019: Elizabeth Jones represented the LWVCA at the Lexington County Public Library, distributed vote411.org materials, League information, and registered one voter.

11-2-2019: LWVCA members assisted the LWV Vote 411 Committee with voter registration and distributed voter registration information during Columbia, S.C.'s Soda City Festival.

11-7-2019: Charmaine Clowney and Elizabeth Jones represented the LWVCA at the Path2Redemption Conference held at Benedict College. Six Benedict students were registered to vote.

11-14-2019: Charmaine Clowney and Lady June Cole attended the Richland County Association of Retired Teachers meeting. Distributed information about the LWVCA and voting.

1-18-2020: Elizabeth Jones, Phillip Jones, Laura Woliver, and Charmaine Clowney conducted voter registration and shared voter information during the Columbia, SC, Women's March.

1-20-2020: M. L. King Day at the Dome, LWVCA Registered Voters.

1-26-2020: Booker Washington Heights Peace Rally, LWVCA Registered Voters.

2-28-2020: Beverly Jackson and Charmaine Clowney registered 52 voters at Westwood High School; part of black history month events.

NOTE: COVID-19 virus cancelled many other planned voter registration events March to the present.

Darlington

Youth Voter Registration for Darlington County has been at several gas stations and IGA grocery and Hartsville's Coker University. Literature was disseminated to these sites as well as to all county libraries, schools, Adult Ed and Intervention Schools. Member discussion for future action included assigned roadside trash collection and member yard signs about appropriate trash disposal.

Florence

We worked with other local organizations to register voters and had registration available at our meetings

Georgetown

Several youth and many adult voter registration drives were conducted in 2019.

Youth voter registration drives were held at four Georgetown High Schools with the most successful at Waccamaw High School when 45 students were registered.

Adult voter registrations were held at Waccamaw and Georgetown libraries several times during 2019 as well as weekly at Smith Clinic and Walmart and several at the Georgetown Farmers Market with various numbers representing success

All of these registration drives were conducted in partnership with groups of diversity.

Greenville

In coordination with the Clemson and Spartanburg Leagues, we registered 787 new citizens at 11 naturalization ceremonies. We also held 10 events at high schools (registering 377 students), and also 1 at a library branch and 9 at local community events (registering 19 additional people). Details are in a document at this link: <https://bit.ly/3e88RuO>

We are an active member of a local coalition -- the "Community Voters Empowerment Coalition" -- comprised of local grassroots nonpartisan organizations that care about voter registration and engagement. Fellow members include, among others, the local NAACP, Hispanic Alliance, Upstate Pride, various "Divine Nine" Greek groups, etc.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

LWVHHI-BA is the recipient of one of the National Youth Voter Project grants resulting in the Voter Services Committee, under the leadership of Chair Ruth Wilderwing, working diligently to make this project a success. Two committee members have been assigned to be the primary contact at each of our local high schools. The first registration drives have been held at all five high schools and second ones were planned to be led by student leaders in collaboration with the League until schools were closed due to the pandemic. Plans are now underway to continue the registrations using video media with the district's approval and following national Project guidelines for same.

Between the fall and February 2020 approximately 150 new voters have been registered. The public has also been educated on the utility of VOTE411 and absentee voting; over 200 copies of a handout

on absentee voting have been distributed. Plans for voter registration and education at spring and summer festivals are now on hold because of sheltering-in-place. The Voter Services Committee is probably our League's largest committee with approximately 50 members.

Horry County

Three High School voter registration drives, with 45 registered; eight college and university drives, with 41 registered; five Community Events and Festivals 5, with 53 registered. Participation in National Voter Registration Day, two events with 19 registered. Six other Voter Registration Activities, with 28 registered.

Spartanburg

As of early March 2020, four drives at high schools and libraries, about 200 registered.

Sumter

14 Voter Registration/ Education Drives:

- 3 Local Colleges (National Voter Registration Day)
- 3 High Schools (National Voter Registration Day)
- 5 Events (Church Black History Month Program)
- 1 Local College (Constitution Day)
- 1 Neighborhood Meeting
- 1 Church (Emancipation Day Service)

Voter Education Presentations And Other Initiatives

Beaufort

- Sep 18 – Voter Registration Training, TCL, Mather Center
- Sep 12 - LWVB General Meeting, celebrating National Voter Registration Month & Constitution, How To Use New Voting Machines Topic: Hosted by Voter Services Committee*
- Nov 14 - LWVB General Mtg “2020 Census” and “Redistricting”
- Jan 13 2020 - Voter Registration Training

Charleston

The outbreak of the Coronavirus-19 pandemic has put a screeching halt to in-person voter registration activities for the League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area since mid-March 2020, but our League is currently putting together a plan for moving forward in the next few months through virtual efforts in the community.

Barbara Zia, our Citizen Education Director, works with her team on creating the VOTE411 Voters Guide, as well as planning for all of the Candidate Forums in the Tri-County elections. Together with Barbara, the Voter Service team offers presentations to High School students and community organizations on how to access and use VOTE411, especially as a means to be a knowledgeable voter, an important goal of getting people to vote. The VS team is in the process of creating a YouTube video as well as using Civics Education and Advocacy presentations to present to HS classes in the fall.

In addition, we

1. We offer extensive training year round on how to register voters to local community groups.
2. We make numerous presentations year round to civic, faith, and community groups regarding voting, and voting history.
3. We have League observers at the monthly board meetings of the Boards of Elections in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties.
4. We are monitoring the governance of local voting jurisdictions to ensure equal access to representation.
5. We provided opportunities to the public to see the new voting machines and publicized the public events of our (three) county election officials.

Clemson

January, 2019: Three members attended a public presentation by Pickens County election office of the new voting equipment

Columbia

August: Elizabeth Jones conducted training and voter registration with St. Luke's Church, Columbia Area.

See also VOTE411.org Columbia Area Committee for further info on voter education and registration activities.

Darlington

See census reference below.

Florence

Sent out video on how to use new voting machines to several organizations and also encouraged the community to vote in some early elections and the Presidential primary to see how machines worked. Our Election and Voter Registration Office had people helping about 15 days before the primary.

Georgetown

Presentations regarding the importance of every person voting and the effects of gerrymandering were created and scheduled in partnership with Horry LWV and AARP.

Greenville

Presentations this past year included:

- voter education programs at a low-income apartment complex, United Way young professionals group, OLLI (a Furman "lifelong learning" education program), a Furman student group, and at local high schools in connection with voter registration efforts;

- a number of informal voter registration training sessions;
- having a census representative speak at our May 2019 meeting;
- coordinating with South Carolina Women in Leadership to put on a program about the census (as well as redistricting reform);
- writing a letter of support for the census at the US Census Bureau representative's request; and
- including census-related educational materials at our information tables

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

The League's January 15, 2020, general meeting was a Forum on the Census with approximately 50 attendees. The Area Coordinator for the 2020 Census, Mr. Ernest C. White, was the keynote speaker along with Mr. James Bradley, coordinator for hiring census takers. Three attendees signed up to be census takers at the end of the forum.

Spartanburg

General Meetings — County Director of Elections spoke about new machines, demonstrated and all had a chance to use. LWV President was on five-person panel at Community College educating 50 people about voting. The following day we received front page photo and story, with LWV quotes.

Sumter

Every registration event stated above included registering individuals to vote and demonstrating how to use the old voting machine at the time and the new voting machine when it became available. The Sumter Voter Registration Office provided the Sumter League with material and a voting machine to take to each location for training/presentations. We also provided information for those interested in becoming poll workers. The league collaborated with different organizations and volunteers (Palmer Foundation, NAACP, NCNW, and student volunteers)

Candidate Forums

Beaufort

- Oct 21- Port Royal Candidate Forum (Town Council & Mayoral candidates), St. Mark's Port Royal
- Advocated for the BC School District Bond Referendum

Charleston

In 2019, elections in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester County were local—county and municipal councils, mayors, public service commissions, ballot questions. Ten LWV-sponsored candidates forums were held; one planned forum had to be cancelled due to a storm. Forums were often co-sponsored with community partners, such as local newspapers, TV stations, nonprofits (such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and AAUW), and schools (such as The Citadel). When possible, candidate

forums were live streamed to the League's Facebook site where they were viewed by hundreds. In-person attendance ranged from thirty to standing-room-only.

Clemson

one candidate forum in Westminster, Oconee County: 9 candidates for 3 seats on city council; 2 candidates for mayor; very well attended.

Columbia

November 13, 2019: Candidate Forum: Richland County School Board Election; LWVCA organized and moderated with Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, Chamber of Commerce Building.

Darlington

none, most upcoming are uncontested incumbent races

Florence

We are anticipating having these in late summer and early fall 2020.

Greenville

We held three candidate forums -- for the Greenville City Council race and the Simpsonville mayoral race in fall 2019 and for a special election for sheriff in January 2020.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

A Candidate Forum was held October 9, 2019 with candidates running for two open Bluffton Township Council positions. The Forum was well-attended with over 50 residents in the audience and all three candidates participating in the 90-minute program in which questions were posed by the president of HHI-BA and questions from the audience were also answered by the candidates. The Forum was filmed and made available to residents who could not attend via the Township's streaming service. Preparations are now being made for a Forum in late May for June elections should the virus allow public meetings to be reinstated.

Horry County

5/12/19 Loris Mayoral Candidate Forum, 10/21/19 Myrtle Beach City council Candidate Forum, 10/28/19 Loris City Council Candidate Forum. On March 17, 2020, LWV HC representatives met with Greater Burgess Civic Association at their request to advise them how we conduct our forums.

Vote411.org

Beaufort

We had two meetings, not on the calendar.

Charleston

LWV Charleston Area provided VOTE411 voters guides for 77 local races on November 5, 2019, ballots. Candidate responses were 100% for races such as Charleston Mayor and Council, James Island Mayor and Council, and Mt. Pleasant Council and Waterworks. Important factors in candidate participation are having a significant League membership and sponsoring candidate forums in a community. In small communities where offices were uncontested, it was challenging to get candidates to participate. Google analytics provided by LWVUS/EF for select communities show good growth in voter use over 2017, the previous local election year, with visits peaking in the week before Election Day. For example, the Charleston voters guide had 2500 sessions from Nov. 1-5; of these, 2300 were new users of VOTE411.

Clemson

Entry of Anderson, Pickens, Oconee County candidates for local, county, state positions. (Eleanor Hare for Pickens County, Kathy Barger for Oconee County, Alice Flower for Anderson County)

Columbia

LWVCA Committee is very active and effective. Please see separate report by VOTE411 Committee.

Darlington

Dyan Cohen has already resumed her work a second year to activate our county VOTE411 initiative.

Florence

Don't have people power to get this done.

Georgetown

We have circulated this information on our website and at registration events; however, we have not contributed anything because of the cost.

Greenville

We have participated in VOTE411 in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020. We cover partisan and most nonpartisan races for Greenwood and Laurens Counties as well as for Greenville County. Our team is currently gearing up for 2020 elections.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

This year the League is pleased to have a new VOTE411 coordinator, Minerva Castro-Hernandez who has taken on her new role with great enthusiasm and thoroughness. She has worked with her counterparts across the state to develop draft questions for all elections this spring, summer, and fall season and has shared the drafts with the Board for input prior to signing off on the questions as our League representative.

Horry County

March 2020 joined My League Online, Created, printed, distributed and posted on website our SC Elected Officials Guide

Spartanburg

We had technical trouble in the fall. Now are up and running this spring for primary in June.

Observer Corps

Beaufort

- March 23 - LWVB Observer Corps Training, 11:00am-1:00pm, Beaufort Branch Library, Scott St.
- Feb 10 - 15 2020 - Proclamation presented by Beaufort County and Beaufort City, Feb 15th LWVB Day.

Charleston

LWVCA Observer report stats for January 2019 through March, 2020 are listed below. Updated “Observer Corps Operational Goals” were implemented in January 2020 to better address Observer recruiting, coaching, and reporting, and to help fill gaps in consistent year-round reporting. (See below)

We intend to resume coverage for as many meetings as possible via live-streaming and YouTube as soon as schedules are back on track.

Year to Date 2019-2020

Observers reported that all County, City, and Town meetings were well run and appeared to meet FOIA laws. School Boards dealt with issues that included school closures, classroom sizes, unfunded state mandates, security, teacher pay & retention, and magnet school issues. County and town councils grappled with shared concerns regarding storm water management, zoning, how to best manage growth (affordable housing, density, traffic, sidewalks, etc.), impact fees, zoning, whether to approve 5G cellular towers, and how to stimulate economic development while protecting wetlands and neighborhoods. Examples of a few additional specific topics:

City of Charleston ratified a resolution to support ratification of the ERA when it reaches the SC legislature for a vote, ratified a resolution that disallows blocking city sidewalks by sitting, sleeping or conducting walking tours, and approved a resolution to increase paid family leave from 8 weeks to 12 weeks.

Dorchester County passed bonds for parks and libraries, addressed economic development in upper Dorchester, formed the “Sand Mine Working Group” and “2020 Census Count Committee”.

Town of Summerville opened a new community center, approved a winter holiday ice skating rink, new road and sidewalk projects, 14 amendments to the new UDO, and the purchase of new police vehicles.

All three County Boards of Election primarily focused on the acquisition and implementation of the new state-wide voting system. Challenges were met regarding security, programming, staff training,

voter outreach, and successfully launching in time to get the bugs out before the November general election.

Goals Moving Forward:

Board of Elections Team, Voter Services Director, Joan Zaleski, plans to continue to:

1. Review Observer reports from the three County Election Boards
2. Foster close communication with the Executive Directors
3. Coordinate with Executive Directors for voter registration outreach.

Education Team will

1. Continue to report on DD2 and DD4
2. Find someone to cover for Education Director, Regina Duggins, while she is on leave of absence to run an election.
3. Recruit an Observer to cover Charleston County School Board meetings.

Good Government and Ethics Team

Director Leslie Skardon will continue to review Observer reports from local and municipal levels to identify issues to advocate for. The committee will also begin a renewed focus this fall on educating constituents about dark money in politics.

Municipal Meeting Reports Posted Jan. 2019-March 2020

Municipal Meeting # Reports Posted		Municipal Meeting # Reports Posted	
Board of Elections		County Councils	
Berkeley	3	Berkeley	0
Charleston	6	Charleston	3
Dorchester	8	Dorchester	4
City/Town Councils		School Boards	
Charleston	15	Berkeley	1
Goose Creek	0	Charleston	0
Mount Pleasant	2	DD2	15
Summerville	7	DD4	4

An effective Observer program evolves to meet the challenges of changing communities, issues, and priorities. LWVCA has updated operational goals for the Observer Corps as follows:

1. Board members will agree to monitor municipal meeting locations where there is jurisdiction over LWVCA core issues, where the League will have the best opportunities to have the most impact, and where decisions are made on the hottest local issues and issues of member concern.
2. The type of information to be monitored will be clearly defined.
3. Information will be shared with membership and the public via the LWVCA website.
4. Information will also be shared directly with internal League leadership as an important resource for decisions that impact priorities, action and events.

5. Observers will be recruited, coached by, and report directly to LWVCA Directors of Education, Voter Services, and Good Government & Ethics.
6. LWVCA leadership will encourage Observer retention by acknowledging the contribution of information as it impacts or influences League goals and actions, and provide Observers with opportunities to contribute League-approved comments on behalf of the League at appropriate times.

Clemson

Attendance at Pickens County Council Meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings. (Eleanor Hare and Ruth Reed)

Columbia

Routine and regularized observations at County, City, Elections, and other local government meetings and hearings. Reports on all published monthly in League Lines newsletter. Lady June Cole, Chair.

Darlington

Have never gotten this "hatched" but will see if one or two will assume this role.

Florence

A few attend School Board, City and County Council meetings.

Greenville

We do not have a formal observer corps.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

Representatives from HHI-BA regularly attend the twice-monthly Board of Education meetings, as well as Beaufort County Council meetings and Bluffton and Hilton Head Island Township meetings. The representatives share information from these meetings that is the foundation for advocacy and planning future League actions.

Policy/Issue Presentations

Beaufort

- Feb 21 - Monthly Meeting, Freedom of Color, the richness of red in the hue of diversity; Postcard writing for Education Legislation
- April 11 – LWVB General Meeting celebrating “Earth Month.” Topic: “Citizens Climate Lobby.” Speaker: Kate Hudson*
- Aug 8 - LWVB General Mtg - Redistricting
- Feb 16, 2020 – Monthly meeting, celebrating 100th National Birthday with a Red Hat Soiree

Charleston

The Charleston League conducted various public events throughout the year. Key among them would be:

*Good Government and Advocacy Forum

*"The Power to Heal" documentary hosted by the Charleston League (in collaboration with MUSC) sharing the impact of Medicare in making strides in improving health care for all citizens. The LWVCA continues to make the documentary available throughout the three-county area.

*CONNECTS is an ongoing series of community education forums with subject-matter experts speaking to key issues. For example,

*the Charleston Mayor spoke on sea level rising concerns;

*a Citadel professor tracked the history of African-American health in the Charleston area from colonial times to the present

*a community expert and scientist spoke about Environmental Justice

*Dr. John Ruoff spoke about redistricting and its impact on local government

*Issues Associated with Voting Panel Event - (Lynn Teague was a participating panelist)

*Documentary Theater Event "Uncivil War" - Bertelsman Group - Movie and panel to discuss threats to the election process.

* And smaller events.

Clemson

May 2019: John Ruoff, Redistricting

Summer 2019, book club: Sasse, "Them"; Shenkman "Political Animal"; Weiss, "Women's Hour"

August 2019: read play on the passage of the 19th amendment by Tennessee; based on "The Women's Hour", an adaptation by Holley Ullbrich

September 2019: Lt. Chris Harrington, Active Shooter/Hostile Environment Preparation

October 2019: Matt Saltzman: Redistricting

November 2019: Michael Corley, attorney, upstate coordinator of the SC Environmental Law Program, legal protection of public property, specifically the Bramley Street project of cleanup of

an old coal gasification plant

January 2020: Description of Lakes and Bridges Charter School for dyslexia in Easley, SC

February 2020: Duncan Buell, Election Processes in SC

March, April, May: postponed due to covid-19 pandemic

Columbia

Public Policy Luncheons:

1. September 19, 2019: speaker: Keller Barron and local NGO leaders on women's activism locally and globally; with reflections on work of UN Commission on Women, Lourie Center.
2. October 17, 2019: speakers: Lynn Teague and Dr. Debbie Billings, "Reproductive Politics: Global and State Perspectives," Lourie Center.
3. November 21, 2019: "Gun Safety and Suicide Prevention" speakers from Prevent Suicide South Carolina and Moms Demand Action, Lourie Center.
4. January 16, 2020: Program Planning Meeting and luncheon. Lourie Center.

Activities of Woliver, Laura R.:

- Guest speaker at U of SC Columbia class, WGST 112, on topic "Women's Activism," October 29, 2019.
- Guest speaker at U of SC Columbia class, WGST 352 on "Women and the Right to Vote". February 25, 2020.
- Gave John West Forum lecture, Winthrop University; topic: "Women's Political Agency and Voting". February 6, 2020.
- Mentored one intern each semester from U of SC Columbia class which includes service learning, WGST 112, fall 2019 and spring 2020.
- Visited LWV United States offices September 12, 2019, to discuss with staff how LWVCA can secure grants and support.
- Led discussion of *Unexampled Courage*, book by Judge Richard Gergel, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church book club, September 18, 2019.
- Panelist with Elaine Weiss and Marjorie Spruill on the passage of the 19th Amendment, Historic Columbia Foundation, September 27, 2019.
- Attended "Fetal Heartbeat Bill Hearings," South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee, November 4, 2019. Other LWVCA members there as well.
- Panelist on WREN Press Conference, release of public opinion poll of South Carolina women, January 21, 2020.
- Breakfast meeting with Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt, Racial Justice Speaker, March 4, 2020. Also attending: Bruce and Lady June Cole from LWVCA.
- Testified on behalf of LWVSC in favor of passage of the ERA by South Carolina Legislature, at Senate Judiciary Committee sub-committee hearing, March 11, 2020.

Darlington

Before the "virus curfew," our Feb. 20 local meeting featured the Census with state administration Mary Dell Hayes as speaker; attendance was good, with another guest.

Florence

Met with new School Superintendent (around 30 present) who is mired in controversy over closing our Vocational Center and sending high school students to local Technical College to earn the high school/college course simultaneously.

We had two excellent programs planned on recycling and how it has changed and how to live without plastic that were cancelled.

Georgetown

Redistricting programs were planned in partnership with neighborhoods associations and AARP which had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Greenville

In the past year, we have:

- actively pursued redistricting reform, including making 3 presentations to approximately 85 people, having a "postcard party" with approximately 20 people writing postcards to legislators, and (at SC Women in Leadership's request) doing our redistricting reform presentation on video (link: <https://youtu.be/TehvFYY4pBI>) so it could be shared more broadly
- participated in a "National Youth Summit" focused on suffrage and women's rights
- cosponsored a screening of a documentary about voter suppression
- created materials for and cosponsored a "Connecting the Dots" event (with Upstate Forever and WREN) about land use, public transportation and housing
- cosponsored a forum about mass incarceration
- has been a nonprofit partner (including participating in "talkback" panels in a local musical theater season focused on women's issues)
- helped create and moderate a community-based forum about affordable housing
- created materials for and led a "community teach-in" event about rules of order
- featured a speaker on local gentrification issues at a general membership meeting

We were scheduling an event with the local Climate Reality Project for April 2020, but (of course) it had to be cancelled.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

See below under the Advocacy heading and also notations on presentations under all of the other headings. Sally McGarry of our League is serving on the state Environment/Natural Resources Work Group.

Horry County

7/9/19 Presentation to Carolina Forest Democratic Club on Plastic Bag ordinances.

Presentation at public input to Horry County Council on Plastic Bag Ordinance.

Spartanburg

General Meetings on ERA with short film, discussion, Census 2020 with Regional Director from Atlanta, Voting machines.

Advocacy (Lobby Day, Action Alerts)

Beaufort

Feb 21 - Monthly Mtg Freedom of Color, the richness of red in the hue of diversity; Postcard writing for Education Legislation. We created postcards explaining the BCSD School Bond Referendum and lobbied for passage after doing a study with LWVHHI/Bluffton.

- Oct 10 – Monthly Meeting – Education Committee: School Bond Referendum Q & A
- Sep 24 – National Voter Registration Day – “Equal Means Equal” Documentary Film, TCL

Charleston

The LWVCA had several members participate in the LWVSC Lobby Days event. Vice President of Communications Shayna Howell also co-chairs the League's statewide team focusing on Redistricting.

The League wrote a letter to the Charleston County Board regarding the extension of I-526 and issues associated with government transparency

Columbia

Attended “She Did” press conference by City of Columbia Mayor and Council; August 26th, 2019, to promote visibility of women’s history in the City.

Attended Press Conference on re-introduction of the ERA in South Carolina; State House Lobby; December 11, 2019.

Attended NOW Rally/Women’s on March, January 18, 2020 and registered voters at the State House.

Attended M.L. King Day at the Dome, S.C. State House, and registered voters on January 20, 2020.

League panel on women’s suffrage and voting issues at South Carolina United Methodist Women’s Conference on February 11, 2020; the panelists were Keller Barron, Rachel Deiter, Elizabeth Jones, and Lynn Teague. At Epworth Children’s Home.

Attended South Carolina LWV “Lobby Day” on February 12, 2020. Advocacy for reproductive rights and access to health care. Visited state Senators.

Attended WREN "Day of Action" to lobby state legislators on "Bodily Autonomy, Reproductive Health", lobbied state senators on February 19, 2020.

Attended "City of Women" 2020 Honorees award ceremony, City of Columbia Mayor's Office and Historic Columbia Foundation. March 8, 2020.

On behalf of LWVSC, Laura R. Woliver testified in favor of passage of the ERA by South Carolina legislature, at Senate Judiciary sub-committee hearing on March 11, 2020.

Routinely responded to Action Alerts

Darlington

Our local was represented at the State House on Lobby Day, also observing the education teacher pay increase bill discussion; a contact was made to Judicial Senate committee member Gerald Malloy requesting support of ERA pending legislation.

Florence

We are not able to keep track of this but do know some are responding.

Greenville

A number of the events listed above included advocacy elements. In addition, in the past year we:

- wrote several letters of support for grants for Greenlink, our local public transportation provider
- had postcard tables at all our general member meetings to give people the opportunity to write legislators about the focal issue (e.g., about gentrification at the gentrification-related event)
- had a Greenville League representative speak to the Greenville Legislative Delegation at two delegation meetings (focused on League legislative priorities in fall 2019 and on redistricting reform and Lobby Day in January 2020)
- participated in Lobby Day in February 2020

Generally, we stay in touch with the director of local elections, Conway Belangia, both to advocate for election-related issues and also and to learn from him about election-related plans and needs.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

The State Issues/Advocacy and Education Chairs of HHI-BA are strong leaders who have engaged our chapter in important advocacy activities. A Redistricting Forum led by Matt Saltzman and Mary Ann Bromley, State Issues Chair for HHI-BA was held in November for the general meeting with nearly 80 attendees. Over 50 People Powered Fair Maps postcards were mailed to state legislators. Education and advocacy efforts on other important state legislative issues included defeat of a federal constitutional convention (H. 3125 & S. 125), opposition to H. 3020, the "fetal heartbeat bill" and several dark money bills (H.4203 and H. 3045). Over 100 post cards were mailed out to our state representatives by LWVHHI-BA members and over 200 rack cards in favor of an Independent Redistricting Commission

(H. 3054). Over 100 "Stop the Gerrymander" bumper stickers were sold or given to new members of LWVHHI-BA. During this program year we have continued to update and distribute copies of How to Speak with Your Legislators; the S.C. Legislative Process; and our Legislative & Redistricting Resource Guide. Ms. Bromley also serves on the state Redistricting Work Group.

Seven LWVHHI-BA members participated in the LWVSC Lobby Day.

The Education Committee Chair, Kathy Quirk and her committee led HHI-BA in conducting a League review of the need for passage of a referendum for repair and refurbishment of Beaufort County Schools. The committee invited the Beaufort LWV to join us in this effort as well as ten other non-partisan, non-political community organization. Visits to schools in both the northern and southern parts of the County revealed the need for upgrading school facilities and technology. The results of the League's study were shared in letters to the editor of local print media and shared with and by our partner organizations in this effort, and in a Referendum Forum held in October 2020 as the primary portion of our general meeting. The Referendum was passed by voters with 70% support; the first school referendum to be passed by Beaufort SD in eleven years.

Spartanburg

Three members attended state Lobby Day. Plans were to be part of local Earth Day celebration, postponed because of Covid19.

Sumter

Three Sumter League Members attended Lobby Day in Columbia. Were able to speak with Representatives David Week and Murrell Smith.

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)

Beaufort

- March 14 - Monthly Mtg – Women's History – Growing Women Candidates - Allison Terracio, Richland County Council
- Feb 21 - Monthly Mtg Freedom of Color, the richness of red in the hue of diversity; Postcard writing for Education Legislation

Charleston

The Charleston League adopted a new DEI League Policy. It also appointed a Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the Board of Directors. The DEI Director has in turn appointed a team of Board and Off-Board members to support the League's internal and external efforts. The League participated in the Gay Pride celebration. The League held several events touching on issues of special interest to the African-American community such as a Connect meeting focused on African-American Health since Colonial times in Charleston; the impact of Medicare in bringing about great

health service equity. The was also expanded outreach to the Hispanic community, including several presentations.

Clemson

Board adopted LWV diversity position with editorial change (omission of list of types of discrimination)

Columbia

Many members participated in the virtual DEI Conference calls and training by the LWV United States.

LWVCA was represented by four members with a League banner at the Gay Pride March in Columbia, October 5th, 2019.

Voter registrations at Jubilee Festival, M.L. King Day at the Dome, Allen University, Benedict College, NAACP garage sale, to mention a few.

Darlington

We regularly practice this concept here in our county LWV local which is usually predominantly African-American and also boasts three male members though we have only a few females who are still employed versus retirees.

Florence

We don't really understand what we are supposed to do with this —?

Greenville

Diversity, equity and inclusion are issues we consider profoundly important. In the past year, we have adopted (and conducted our first annual review of) a DEI policy and recently adopted a DEI plan.

Of course, there are many axes of diversity, but some particular axes for which the Greenville League as a group has not been reflective of our community as a whole include age (with our members being older), race (whiter) and gender (female-er).

It is our goal to be consciously and consistently mindful of seeing our work and our goals through a DEI lens. More broadly, we believe that DEI-supportive elements include being present at and connected with other local community organizations and events and doing the work that our community as a whole cares about and wants to engage in.

Some particular things that we have done this past year that, among other things, are DEI-supportive include:

- Cosponsoring Juneteenth-related events
- Having a presence (including a League speaker) at a local Black Pride event
- Forming a Student Advisory Council with local high school student members
- Having a student intern (a local high school senior)
- Having a booth at the Upstate Pride event
- Being part of the COVE voter registration/engagement coalition
- Participating in other local organizations' events (e.g., NAACP, Hispanic Alliance, etc.)
- Partnering with other organizations for voter registration events, candidate forums, etc.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

The LWVHHI-BA had Charmaine Clowney, the state coordinator of DEI, as our Holiday Luncheon Speaker on December 6, 2019. Our updated policy on DEI was printed on the luncheon program and has been placed on our website.

HHI-BA has been a partner with the Lowcountry Immigration Coalition, especially around voter education and services, since June 2019. Mr. George Kanuck was to have been our keynote speaker for our April general meeting that had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus.

As an alternative, Mr. Kanuck was asked to write the lead article for our Spring quarterly newsletter.

The local League also completed the DEI survey and has set plans for continuing attention to DEI for the 2020-2021 program year. The president of HHI-BA is a member of the state DEI workgroup.

Spartanburg

Last year's Board did a terrific job of increasing diversity in our membership and board. We continue their work.

Sumter

We have embraced and promoted Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion so everyone has a seat at the table in continuing to make Sumter and America a more perfect democracy. However, challenges remain.

Centennial

Beaufort

Feb 16, 2020 – Monthly meeting, celebrating 100th National Birthday with a LWV 100 year Soiree.
Topic: ERA

Charleston

The Charleston League has held numerous events and made many presentations associated with the League's centennial and the anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment.

Below is a sampling of activities:

Presentations for Women's History Month (March):

Tuesday, March 3

6 pm Dorchester Public Library: "The Woman's Hour" Book Discussion
Joan Zaleski

Friday, March 6

9:40-10:20 am Ashley Hall: "19th Amendment and the LWV," Jennet Alterman and Joan Zaleski
(voter registration)

Monday, March 9

2:30 pm Folly Beach Public Library: "The Woman's Hour" Book Discussion, Joan Zaleski

Tuesday, March 10

6 pm Otranto Public Library Presentation: Women Empowerment/Women and the Vote

Saturday, March 14

10 am Wando Mt. Pleasant Public Library Presentation: Women Empowerment/ Women and the Vote

Monday, March 16

6 pm Charleston Main Library: "The Woman's Hour" Book Discussion Joan Zaleski

Tuesday, March 17

6 pm Hurd/St. Andrews Public Library Presentation: Women's Empowerment/Women and the Vote

Saturday, March 21

1 pm-5 pm Charleston Main Library, Women's Expo table

Tuesday, March 24

5:30 pm Baxter-Patrick James Island Library: Presentation: Women's Empowerment/Women and the Vote

Thursday, March 25

11:30 am-12:30 pm — State Dept., U.S. Naval Base, North Charleston. Panel Discussion: Women and the Vote Joan Zaleski/Carolyn Wright Porcher

The Charleston League continues to plan work associated with a Charleston Walking Tour focused on the accomplishments of women; a long-term collaborative plan to have a site and statue dedicated to influential and consequential women of the area. The Annual Meetings was planned to continue the celebration and the League plans to hold a special event when circumstances permit. Finally, the special event at PURE Theatre of The Agitators was the highlight of the League's centennial celebrations.

Clemson

Presentation of read play by Holley Ulbrich, adapted from *The Womens Hour* by Elaine Weiss.

Columbia

February 9, 2020: 100th birthday party for LWV and forum on "Impact of the LWVCA on Columbia South Carolina", League panelists: Keller Barron, Pamela Craig, Elizabeth Oakman, Candy Waites and Judith Thompson. At Historic Columbia Foundation, Carriage House.

Ongoing: secured permits, lining up allies and co-sponsors for planned Centennial of 19th Amendment march and rally on August 22, 2020; research in UofSC Political Archives on history of the LWV in South Carolina; many articles written by LWVCA members or including interviews with members regarding the centennial of the 19th Amendment in SC Voter in Nickelodeon Magazine; publicity in Historically Speaking (Historic Columbia Newsletter), Columbia Star newspaper; many others.

Darlington

Have a plan - parts of which have been implemented (publicity book, DVD for sale/distribution; another phase for future when social contact has been resumed.

Florence

We showed a movie at the Florence County Library about the first woman to run for President with about 25 attending, and we later hope to work with the Darlington County League.

Georgetown

An event was held at Waccamaw Library showing a suffrage movie with question and answer period with a speaker and another event was held at Georgetown Library showing a suffrage movie. Both of these events were very well attended having been advertised community-wide.

Another event was scheduled in partnership with Horry LWV which was cancelled due to COVID-19 GCLWV was on the Georgetown County Council agenda awarding a PROCLAMATION

Greenville

We had two representatives at the planning meeting at Keller Barron's house in August 2019. Our Centennial-related efforts have included:

- working with the Upcountry History Museum to assist with their suffrage-related exhibit
- coordinating with the National Votes for Women Trail with a view to hosting an event in August 2020
- asking for and receiving proclamations honoring from the League from each of Greenville County Council and Simpsonville City Council
- donating to support the Spartanburg League's planned Centennial mural

We had to cancel a general member meeting that was to feature a speaker on suffrage history from a local angle, and we were to receive a proclamation from the City of Greenville at that meeting. In addition to the National Votes for Women Trail event, we also have an event planned for August 2020 featuring a scholar of suffragist Alice Paul.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

The following activities were held in honor of the Centennial:

- 1) Three showings of the documentary Equal Means Equal at the USC Hilton Head campus, at Hilton Head Library, and at the Bluffton Library. These showings had an average attendance each of 70 men and women.
- 2) Other Centennial activities included a fundraiser in November and a Celebratory Reception in February.
- 3) Our local League's Centennial celebrations were highlighted in a WJCL-TV interview of our Centennial Chair, Nancy Williams and our President, Patricia Felton-Montgomery on February 10, 2020 and numerous print articles including articles in the Bluffton Sun and Pink newspapers. There was also a display of the history of our local League and our national organization in the Beaufort County Library System. (4) The immediate past co-president and the present president, Nancy Williams and Patricia Felton-Montgomery gave a two-hour lecture on the history of the LWV and HHI-BA for the OLLI program of the USC Beaufort.

Horry County

Presentation to Myrtle Beach High School History class on the importance of voting and the Centennial. Two other events had to be cancelled due to pandemic (1) Luncheon to honor Lois Eargle, former member of SC House, Horry County Auditor and many other national, state and local roles. Dr. Eargle was a member of the precursor Horry County League in the 70's. (2) TED Talk contest in partnership with Horry County Schools and National History Day with theme of "Breaking Barriers in History". Middle and HS categories \$100 prize each with topic to address Women's Suffrage in SC.

Spartanburg

We are in the mist of creating an outdoor mural near downtown celebrating the Grimke Sisters. These South Carolina women were famous in 1830-1850's for their abolitionist and suffragist views. We have the wall and the design. It will be done in 2020. This Tribute is to mark the 19th Amendment being won.

February - 100th celebration of LWV including writing post cards to state legislators.

Sumter

Mayor McElveen, Jr., proclaimed the month of February 2020 as "League of Women Voters Centennial Month" and congratulated the League of Women Voters of Sumter County on the League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary. Reached out to past presidents and other inactive members to participate in a roundtable discussion on their league experience. This event was scheduled on March 21, 2020 but was canceled due to COVID-19.

Fundraising

Beaufort

- Sep 24 – National Voter Registration Day – "Equal Means Equal" Documentary Film, TCL
- Dec 3 – Giving Tuesday, "\$100 for 100 Years" Campaign kickoff

Charleston

The LWVCA Resource Development team is focused on creating a culture of philanthropy to raise awareness of funding needs. To that end, messaging about funding needs have been included in our gatherings and online as outlined below:

- We continue to maintain a Donate Now option on our website to solicit donations.
- At our fall "kick off" event, the Resource Development Director solicited donations in support of our ongoing activities during her report to the members and some gifts were received as a result. In addition, the Resource Development Director asked for members to assist in the identification of potential corporate sponsors for our activities.
- With the guidance of the Resource Development Director, the Centennial Celebration Planning Committee organized a fundraising event in partnership with PURE Theatre to reprise The Agitators,

the story of the relationship between Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony on February 8th. Proceeds were generated by capturing a portion of the ticket sales as well as corporate sponsorships. A post-performance reception was hosted by Carolyn Murray, Channel 2 News co-anchor, who solicited donations at the event in support of our ongoing activities. A total of \$8,000 (gross revenue) was generated from the event. Net income was approximately \$5,000.

-Plans for the remainder of the fiscal year have been impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Resource Development Committee plans to send out an electronic (fiscal) year-end appeal to all members to support our ongoing activities and/or special projects. In addition, when social distancing guidelines are eased, LWVCA leadership will host a small gathering of major donors to continue to cultivate and steward their philanthropic support. Major donors will be listed in the Annual Meeting program to recognize their contributions to the organization.

Columbia

We receive contributions through Midlands Gives annually in May, with organizational meetings during the year.

Darlington

I will send out this spring a formal letter to members and potential contributors while our final May meeting is a traditional silent auction fundraiser buffet/member recruitment event.

Florence

Was planned for February 21 and had to be postponed.

Greenville

We did not feel the need to hold any fundraising events this past year.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

This Centennial Year, our fundraising was based on the anniversary of the League. All Board members pledged from \$100.00 each to as much as \$500.00 each. Two fundraisers were held, one in November 2019 and one on February 10, 2020. Other online donations were also received. The total raised from these sources was approximately \$9,000.00

Horry County

Members "store" donation table at meetings, call for donations for National History Day contest.

Spartanburg

We do not ask for donations from our membership unless we have a big project. This year we have gone to individuals we knew would be interested in The Tribute to the Grimke Sisters. It has a budget of \$13,000.

Other

Beaufort

- May 18 – LWVB Annual Meeting/Luncheon, "Women of the Reconstruction"
- Aug 10 – Back to School Expo, 8:30-2:30, Battery Creek HS participated in
- Sep 28 –Beaufort County Youth Conference Presents "It's On Us" - 8am-3pm – TC

What we postponed due to Covid-19:

- March Meeting "She Is Me" Guest Speaker Anne Christensen Pollitzer ; Great Grandmother Abbey Holmes Christensen - Folklorist, Educator, Suffragist
- April 23 National Earth Day - Movie 'The Human Element' and panel discussion - Free Event
- May 16 Annual Meeting - Invited local Black Sororities to Chat and Chew about working with each other on local issues and Voting.
- June TBD
- Dec 12 – Holiday Social – Holiday Inn-Membership Drive

Charleston

The Good Government and Ethics Committee continues to review Observer Corps reports from local and municipal levels to identify issues to advocate for. The Committee will also begin a renewed focus this fall on educating constituents about dark money in politics.

Clemson

Impact on Issues 2018-2020, published by the League of Women Voters of the United States, is a summary of national policy positions. When we state that the League supports an issue, we are asserting that the issue is supported in these 90 plus pages. Changes are made only at the National Convention. The Clemson Area League proposes that ". . . international agreement on limits to the use of cyber weapons to attack critical infrastructure (including electrical grids, water supplies and other essential services). . ." be added at the National Convention.

Columbia

- Coalition building: members attended meetings with WREN, Planned Parenthood, Historic Columbia Foundation, Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, City of Women, Women & Gender Studies Program, U of SC; Girls on the Run; NOW of Columbia; "I Believe Anita Hill Party" October 15, 2019; South Carolina Girl Scouts.
- Routinely: new member orientations; new board members orientations; production of monthly newsletter League Lines.
- Social gatherings and networking: August, December and May every year.
- LWVCA members attended many lectures and events in area related to centennial of the 19th Amendment: 1. Elaine Weiss lecture on "The Woman's Hour", Historic Columbia Foundation and

USC, Main Library, September 26, 2019; 2. Jacqueline Hall lecture on “Sister Rebels” at Hollings Political Collections, UofSC, October 3, 2019.

- Members attended LEAD Day January 25, 2020. Laura Woliver gave talk on women’s advocacy

NOTE: Events that were organized and ready to go, then cancelled because of COVID-19 virus:

- Bank of America, meeting of South Carolina women employees, forum on the 19th Amendment and Women’s Leadership, scheduled for March 9th, 2020. LWVCA forum participants planned: Lady June Cole and Laura R. Woliver.
- VOTE411 Committee of LWVCA participation in St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Lexington, So Car. March 14, 2020.
- Public Policy Forum at downtown library on the U.S. Census and Redistricting, March 19, 2020. Speakers: Census Bureau person, Dr. Scott Huffman, Winthrop Poll. Co-sponsors: Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, AARP, So Car Commission on Minority Affairs.
- Nickelodeon Movie Theatre film series on Women Who Make a Difference; scheduled four documentaries, with speakers, publicity finished. Scheduled April 1 – 21, 2020.
- WREN Summit, April 6, 2020.
- Earth Day, 50th Anniversary, state house rally, LWVCA co-sponsor. April 22, 2020.
- USC History Center and Historic Columbia Foundation two day symposium on impact of the 19th Amendment. April 23-24, 2020.

MEDIA:

- Interviewed by NPR reporter on women’s votes and South Carolina presidential primary. Duncan Buell, Christe McCoy-Lawrence, and Laura R. Woliver interviewed. February 25, 2020. “All Things Considered” February 26, 2020 included snippet.
- Several Letters to the Editor published by LWVCA members, especially Elizabeth Jones, State newspaper.
- Coverage of our events in Columbia Star.
- Interviews with Lynn Teague in various outlets.
- Comment on So Car primary elections by Laura R. Woliver, Charleston Post & Courier. March 2020.

Darlington

For one of the smallest locals (currently 18), we try to do what the "big units" do and generally succeed.

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton

Passage of the ERA was an important effort for LWVHHI-BA. As indicated above, three showings of the documentary Equal Means Equal were very successful with over 100 ERA buttons sold (at a 100% profit). Over 2,000 "Vote YES on the ERA" postcards were sent to members of the SC House Judiciary Committee. A January 14, 2020 Letter to the Editor of the Island packet received positive responses from the public and electronic communications were established with the national ERA Coalition. About half or nearly 100 of LWVHHI-BA members have expressed interest in staying apprised of ERA activities and progress. Barbara Hammes is the coordinator of our League's effort on the ERA.

The Communications Committee has a new webmaster Judy Dunning who is doing a wonderful job and our stellar quarterly newsletter by Mary Agnes Garman, receives accolades from the nearly 300 individuals and organizations on the mailing list. Over 13,000 emails on League topics have been mailed as of February 2020 with over 6,000 opened or 47%.

Horry County

As a new local League, we completed paperwork for 501C3 tax status and amended bylaws to include needed changes. Attended LEAD and assisted with Zero Waste efforts.

Spartanburg

1. Girl Scouts - We worked with the Girl Scouts Mountains to Midlands Council to do the content for middle and high school girls on their Voting Badge. We spent 1 Saturday morning with about 20 girls doing the work. It got good reviews and we expect to continue doing it. We used a good curriculum from the Ohio LWV.

2. Iron Jawed Angels movie, we cosponsored a public showing to about 150 people educating them about the suffragist fight.

3. Membership -Last year we had 67 members, currently we have 83 members.

Sumter

Sumter League started donating items to Sumter YWCA Shelter and Pee Dee Coalition Shelters.

We presented information on the importance of completing Census Paperwork and assisted individuals as needed.

We have four new members and one returning inactive member.

BIOS OF SPEAKERS FOR MAY 12 SESSION

Gibbs Knotts

Political Science Professor and Interim Dean for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Charleston



Gibbs Knotts joined the Department of Political Science as Department Chair in 2012. He teaches undergraduate courses in American politics and graduate courses in the public administration program. He has published works on political participation, southern politics, public administration, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Articles have appeared in a variety of outlets including the *Journal of Politics*, *Public Administration Review*, *Political Research Quarterly*, the *American Review of Public Administration*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Southern Cultures*, *Southeastern Geographer*, and *Social Forces*. He also co-edited *The New Politics of North Carolina* (University of North Carolina Press, 2008). His new co-authored book is *The Resilience of Southern Identity: Why the South Still Matters in the Minds of Its People* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017). He received the College of Charleston's Distinguished Research Award in 2017.

Prior to arriving at the College of Charleston he worked at Western Carolina University where he served in a variety of administrative roles including MPA Director, Graduate School and

Research Associate Dean, Political Science and Public Affairs Department Head, and College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean. While at WCU, he also received the 2004 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, the 2010 Board of Governor's Teaching Award, and the 2010 University Scholar Award.

Dr. Knotts is currently serving as Interim Dean for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Education

Ph.D, M.A., Emory University

B.A., University of North Carolina

Field of Specialization: American Politics; Public Administration

Jordan Ragusa

Political Science Associate Professor and Associate Chair, College of Charleston



Jordan Ragusa joined the department in 2011 and became Associate Chair of the department in 2019. Dr. Ragusa has a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Florida and a B.S. in secondary education from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Dr. Ragusa's research focuses on the U.S. Congress, with specific interests on the effect(s) of political parties, polarization, and legislative organization on roll-call behavior and the policymaking process. His published work also includes research on the presidency, congressional and presidential elections, political behavior, and political economy. Dr. Ragusa is the author of two forthcoming books: "Congress in Reverse: Repeals from Reconstruction to the Present" (University of Chicago Press, with Nate Birkhead) and "First in the South: Why the South Carolina Presidential Primary Matters" (University of South Carolina Press, with Gibbs Knotts). He has published in the journals: *Political Research Quarterly*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Politics Research*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Political*

Science, Research & Politics, and the *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties*.

Dr. Ragusa is also the co-director of the College's American Politics Research Team, a research fellow in the Center for Public Choice and Market Process, and a columnist for the Legislative Branch Capacity Working Group at LegBranch.com.

Recent Publications

Amira, Karyn, Johnson, Lauren R., Deon McCray, and Jordan M. Ragusa. 2019. "Adversaries or Allies? Donald Trump's Republican Support in Congress" *Perspectives on Politics* 17(3): 756-71.

Johnson, Lauren, Deon McCray, and Jordan M. Ragusa. 2019. "#NeverTrump: Why Republican Members of Congress Refused to Support Their Party's Nominee in the 2016 Presidential Election." *Research & Politics*.

Craven, Jamie, Jordan M. Ragusa, and John Thevos. 2017. "Palmetto State Primaries: An Examination of South Carolina's Nomination Contests." *Journal of Political Science*.

Ragusa, Jordan M. 2017. "An Examination of Congressional Efforts to Repeal the Affordable Care Act." In Lawrence C. Dodd and Bruce Oppenheimer, *Congress Reconsidered*, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

Ragusa, Jordan M. 2017. "Do the Rich Deserve a Tax Cut? Public Images, Deservingness, and Americans' Tax Policy Preferences." In Bart Meuleman, Femke Roosma, Tim Reeskens, and Wim van Oorschot, *The Social Legitimacy of Targeted Welfare*, London: Edward Elgar Press.

Cooper, Chris, Gibbs Knotts, and Jordan M. Ragusa. 2016. "The Constrained Governor: Gubernatorial Decision-Making and Senate Appointments." *Political Research Quarterly* 69 (3): 482-494.

Ragusa, Jordan M., and Anthony Gaspar. 2016. "Where's the Tea Party? An Examination of the Tea Party's Voting Behavior in the House of Representatives." *Political Research Quarterly* 69 (2): 361-372.

Ragusa, Jordan M. 2016. "Partisan Cohorts, Polarization, and the Gingrich Senators." *American Politics Research* 44 (2): 296-325.

Knotts, Gibbs, and Jordan M. Ragusa. 2016. "The Nationalization of Special Elections for the U.S. House of Representatives." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties* 26 (1): 22-39.

Ragusa, Jordan M., and Matthew Tarpey. 2016. "The Geographies of Economic Voting in Presidential and Congressional Elections." *Political Science Quarterly* 131(1): 101-132.

Education

Ph.D., University of Florida

M.A., University of Florida

B.S., Bowling Green State University

Field of Specialization: American politics and research methodology