



# LEAGUE LINES

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


Editor Suzanne Rhodes / Co-editor Sej Harman

Volume 64, Issue 9

April 2012

## CALENDAR & NEWS

### APRIL

- 3** (Tu) Columbia City Council Elections: **VOTE**
- 3** (Tu) Green Drinks (see p. 5)
- 10** (Tu) Dr. Helen Caldicott (see p. 5)
- 11** (W) 12:00 noon  
CMRTA Board Meeting
- 14** (Sa) LWVSC Council of Leaders
- 19** (Th) 11:45 AM  
**Public Policy Luncheon** 
- with **Bob Schneider**, new Executive Director of CMRTA
- 17** TAX DAY
- 24** (Tu) 7-9 PM - Capitol Senior Center  
Consensus Meeting on LWV Privatization Study  
Guest Speaker - *Ted Volskay*  
(see details in article, p. 3)

### MAY

- 14** (M) Annual Meeting (evening)  
Grecian Gardens – details later.

### JUNE

June 8-12, 2012 – LWV National Convention – Washington, DC

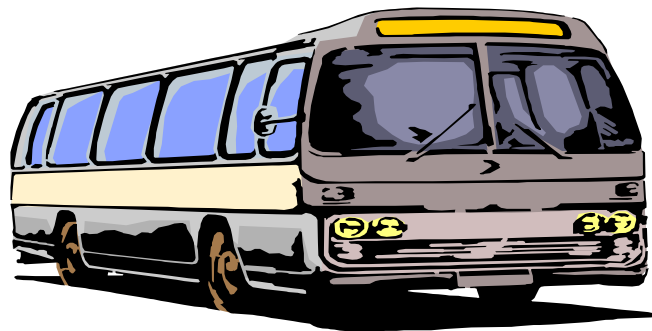
## PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON

**Bob Schneider**

**Executive Director of CMRTA  
(Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority)**

**Thursday, April 19 – 11:45 AM  
Capital Senior Center**

**Bob Schneider** is making a positive impact in his dual role as Executive Director of Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority and General Manager of Veolia Transportation, the contract operator of the local bus system. Dr. Schneider has educational credentials in Public Administration and Political Science and hands-on operational experience of public transit systems in Knoxville, TN, and Boise, Idaho. Bob has just the right combination of skills, creativity, and personality for this crucial time in the life of the transit system. Our **Lill Mood** is enthusiastic about his leadership, and we look forward to hearing his thoughts and working with him!



Reservations preferred:

**Susan B James at [sc.rr.com](http://sc.rr.com) or 256-6822**

**2011-2012 Board:** President - Rita Paul; 1<sup>st</sup> VP - JoAnne Day (Legislative Action); Treasurer - Janie White; Secretary - Pat Davy; Directors - Pam Craig (Membership); Richie Douglas, Pat Forbis, Sarah Leverette (State Liaison), Carol Medich (Voter Services); Lynn Teague. **Nominating Committee (2011-2012):** Pam Craig, Jan Urban. **Off-Board:** Website - Teri Evans; Environmental Affairs - Chester Sansbury; *League Lines* - Suzanne Rhodes (Editor); Communications/Membership - Sej Harman; Telephone Tree - Keller Barron; Public Transit - Lill Mood; Reservations - Susan James.

**The Prez Says...****Rita Paul**

Welcome to your April edition of *League Lines*! The official entrance of spring brings many events for you to pay attention to and participate in!

With spring 2012 comes the biennial meeting of the **LWVSC Council of Leaders**. As a reminder, Council is a statewide League meeting that is held in the spring of even-numbered years. It is a time for serious work and organization building as well as time to connect with Leaguers from across South Carolina. Council is set for Saturday, April 14 and will be a chance to be educated and inspired. Two speakers are **Andy Brack** of the State House Report on today's Political Environment in South Carolina and **Dr. Nicholas Rigas**, on the Future of Energy in South Carolina.

Some of your board members will be in attendance, but if you or anyone you know who may be a prospective member is interested in attending, let **Janie White** know immediately. **Reservations are necessary.**

I simply cannot give enough kudos to the voter services work being done under the leadership of **Carol Medich!!!** It is outstanding. Please check out the recent piece on the LWVSC Facebook page and LIKE IT! There is an outstanding picture of our future voters. Thanks, Carol!

We need you for the upcoming consensus meeting for the national Privatization study. For detailed information please read **JoAnne Day's** article on page 3 of *League Lines*. The consensus meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 24 from 7 to 9 p.m.** at the Capitol Senior Center in Columbia. We are fortunate to have as a special guest speaker, **Ted Volskay**, participant in the national study, author of several of the study's position papers, and a resident of South Carolina. More information will be available prior to the meeting. Thanks to **Keller Baron** for taking a lead role in organizing the meeting and working to secure Ted's participation. Please come!

**Two quick reminders:** The nominations committee is at work and may give you a call about serving in some capacity with our new board. We are definitely in **recruitment mode!** Don't be afraid! There are many wonderful members who will continue to serve and mentor....give it a try. We all have something to offer and I promise from my own personal experience, there is support for you if you are willing to share your time and talents. And secondly, the **Annual Meeting is set for Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at Grecian Gardens.** Details will follow, but please plan to be in attendance and be a part of setting our road ahead!

*Rita*

**ACT on it!** Continue to keep in contact with your elected officials on issues you care about!



**Be on the lookout for** a special, brief email SURVEY about *League Lines* and other communications (website; alerts, etc.). We'll be asking about **CONTENT** (types of articles, columns; length of items; additional materials / links), **FORMAT** (for readability and quick reference), **FREQUENCY** (how often should we publish; how far in advance), **DELIVERY** method (electronic; email; website). And **MORE**. We want to make *League Lines*, the website, and other communications vehicles pertinent, efficient, and something YOU look forward to!

**Remember: to renew or initiate League membership ON-LINE:**

Go to [www.lwvcolumbiasc.org](http://www.lwvcolumbiasc.org), click on "JOIN US" in the left menu, and choose your level of membership.

## VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

In late February the Columbia League participated in two voter registration activities. The first was the Black History Event at the Beltline Campus of Midlands Tech where 8 students were registered. The second was a Voter Registration Drive in front of the Russell House at USC. Students wanting to conduct the drive contacted the League asking for some “grownups” to provide guidance for the activities. There were some planning sessions with the students and it was a very successful event. **Over 100 students were registered!** The “grownups” were played by **Carole Cato, Pat Davy, Pat Forbis, and Carol Medich.** On April 12 we will be registering students at Irmo High School.



Registering Voters at USC

With the Columbia City elections coming up on April 3, the League has provided moderators for candidate forums. **Cynthia Flynn** moderated a forum on March 5 for District 3 and At-Large candidates sponsored by Sustainable Midlands, the Rosewood Community Council, and the Rosewood Merchants Association. On March 29 **Keller Barron** moderated a forum for District 2 and At-Large candidates sponsored by the Eau Claire Community Council and the North Columbia Business Association at the Eau Claire Print Building.

At Rita’s request, **Carol** sent an article (and picture) for the *Voter* in response to Barbara Zia’s request for “Around SC with the League.” **Check it out on the LWVSC Facebook page....Great job!**

**FYI – Important trivia: Students can vote** in the primary in June if they are registered and 18 years old by November 6. They are **not** allowed to vote in the city election April 3 if they are not yet 18, even if they are registered.

**Carol Medich**

## Privatization - Help us Reach Consensus – A National League Study

**Tuesday, April 24, 2012**

Privatization or “Government can’t do anything right...The private sector can do it better

Recent public policy debate has revolved around the size, scope and role of government. There are proposals to privatize social security, Medicare, prisons, education, etc. The privatization movement aims to transfer many government services, assets and functions to the private sector, in the belief that the private sector is more efficient and cost effective than government.

In South Carolina a recent article in *The State* newspaper highlighted a proposal to privatize school bus service. Bills have been introduced in the legislature over the past several years to allow tax dollars to be used to fund private K-12 schools. On the other hand, public tax dollars are used for scholarships to private colleges in South Carolina, which most citizens think is a good thing. So there are many sides to this story.

**What is the proper balance between government, business, and civil society? How can the balance best be fostered?**

These are some of the questions raised in the League of Women Voters national study on the issue of “privatization of government functions.” It is now time for local leagues to weigh in and reach consensus on this issue in order to adopt a clear national position on privatization.

**Come and voice your opinion:**  
**When:** Tuesday, April 24, 7 – 9 PM  
**Where:** Capital Senior Center at Maxcy Gregg Park

**Special Guest speaker:** Ted Volskay, participant in the national study, author of several of the study’s position papers, and a resident of South Carolina.

Reading material for the study can be found at:  
<http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>

Selected articles will be emailed soon.

**JoAnne Day**

## March Policy Luncheon Recap



Our speaker at our most recent PPL was **Seth Rose**, a member of Richland County Council. For a bio on Mr. Rose please review your March *League Lines*.

Mr. Rose seems to be the kind of politician we are all looking for. He is concerned about being a good steward of the county's resources, and he realizes that to be a good steward he needs to go to experts so he is able to make informed decisions.

The need to appoint an Economic Development Director as part of the County's strategic plan was fulfilled in August of last year. Several other counties had a Director, but Richland County, the capital county, did not. In the past, the economic development duties were being handled piecemeal by various government officials. Since the Director's appointment, 600 new jobs have come to the County.

Mr. Rose expressed concerns over some decisions that have been made and cannot be undone. These would include DHEC's permitting of the county landfill. He is supportive of the bus system and points out some of the developing problems of local government such as local government's having to pay for Public Defenders and voter registration while, at the same time, experiencing a cut in funding from the State. He would like to see State government add a "blurb" to the hospitality tax legislation stating that some of the funds can be used to support public transit as he sees it as a better alternative to the present vehicle tax. He was proud of the strides made in restructuring CMRTA, and the fact that a better relationship is developing between the City and County.

**Note:** If you're interested in learning more about the transit issues, be sure to attend the next PPL. See cover page for details.

Following the luncheon, a few League members went to the Columbia Museum of Art and with our own Docent/member, we toured the "America the Beautiful" exhibit. By the time you read the article, the display, on loan from the New York Historical Society, will have left the Columbia Museum, and you will have missed an opportunity of a lifetime. Those of you who saw it, I'm sure, will agree it was fantastic, and only made better by our own personal tour guide, **Susan James**.

**Thank you Susan.**

**Pam Craig**



## League Media Stars!

**You, too, can be a media star!**

**JoAnne Day** was a participant on a panel titled "Voter Issues" at the SC Democratic Party Issue Conference on March 10, 2012

**Lynn Teague** spoke to the Alpha Sigma Theta sorority at their annual meeting on March 10 at Lander University in Greenwood, SC. About 75 members attended the two Social Action sessions devoted to voting issues. Teague reported to the group on the legal case surrounding voter photo ID and the League's opposition to bills in this session including H. 4549 (third party voter registration) and S. 304 (proof of citizenship).



## Speakers Bureau

Volunteer **YOUR** voice to speak for the League!

League members have spoken out about many concerns of importance to citizens at local, state, and national levels: transportation; urban planning; sustainable growth and quality of life; voter photo ID and voter registration constraints; health care; nuclear waste; juvenile justice; women's health; campaign finance; environmental issues; domestic violence; city/county government consolidation; election reform; education; corrections;...and many other issues. We ARE the League. Our voice is HEARD in the councils of government and by the people.

You are urged to consider becoming a speaker about and for the League. As we develop our Speakers Bureau, League members will provide training and support, talking points and other materials, and lots of encouragement to help you hone your presentation skills and gain valuable experience and exposure. Take advantage of opportunities to build networks; learn about government, politics, and organizations; and enhance your professional and personal resumes.

Contact **JoAnne Day** to volunteer **TODAY** or respond with an enthusiastic YES when you are called upon!

## MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

### Navigating the New LWVUS Website (NEW)

The new and improved [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) has so much to offer! Take some time now to get acquainted with the new website. Find documents like *Impact on Issues* and the *ABC's of a Streamlined League* under "Essential Publications" in the League Essentials area of the Members section. Look for more tips in future *Leaders' Updates*.

The slate for the national board includes *Peggy Appler*, a Charleston Leaguer, who has been a valuable member and planner for the State Board.

If you're willing to "put your money where **our** mouth\* is," we need members to adopt *League Lines* in hard-copy format to mail to various elected officials each month.



The number of copies to be mailed each month is in parentheses, followed by the current cost of first-class postage.

Lexington County Council (9)	\$3.96
Richland County Council (11)	4.84
Mayor of Columbia (1)	.44
Columbia City Council (6)	<u>2.64</u>
Total postage for one mailing:	\$11.88

Members of the Senate and House of Representatives for Richland County and Lexington County, as well as a few other officials, might also be considered to receive hard copies.

If you'd be interested in underwriting the postage for mailing just one edition, please let me know and I'll schedule you for a mailing, **beginning with the August 2012 issue**. We'll bill you or you may pay in advance.

**Sej Harman**

*\* I know most guys don't usually wear lipstick, but our male members are welcome to participate!*

**April 3 – Tuesday**

**Columbia City Council Elections**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Green Drinks Columbia** 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. **April 3, 2012** at Jake's Bar & Grill, 2112 Devine St., Columbia, South Carolina. Green Drinks is a once per month opportunity for eco-friendly individuals and vendors to socialize and network. Green Drinks Columbia is sponsored by the Sierra Club, John Bachman Group, Keep the Midlands Beautiful, and Natural Awakenings magazine

**The Spartanburg League's Judicial Diversity Contest** is open to ALL South Carolina High School students, not just students in Spartanburg County. It is a wonderful project that will not only place the spotlight on creativity but open new avenues for students to think about diversity in our judicial system. The contest rules are here: <http://lwvspartanburg.org/judicialdiversit.html>

**Dr. Helen Caldicott** will speak at a Sierra Club meeting 8:00 **April 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Green Quad. If you don't know about Helen, check out "If you Love This Planet" for her radio station.

The next **CMRTA Board Meeting** is scheduled for April 11, 2012 at 12:00 noon.



## Council Meetings

### Lexington County Council

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

For confirmation of meeting dates, please call 785-8103 or check website [www.lex-co.com](http://www.lex-co.com)

### Richland County Council

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

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