



LEAGUE LINES

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

www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Editor Suzanne Rhodes / Co-editor Sej Harman

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April 2013

CALENDAR & NEWS

APRIL

- 3 (W)** Launch of *MTRA* (see p. 4)
- 5 (F)** *Last day to notify Rita if you wish to be a Columbia delegate to State Convention
- 8 (M)** Board Mtg., 5:30, Nurses Assoc. Bld. (Gadsden St. behind Governor's Mansion)
- 8 (M)** Earth Day survey due (see p. 7)

18 (Th) **NO Policy Luncheon** 
 Columbia Museum of Art
 Luncheon and Tour – "Impressionism..."

21 (Th) –Deadline for May *League Lines* articles (suzrhodes@juno.com)

22 (F) –EARTH DAY

27-28 (S-Su) **2013 LWVSC Convention**
 (Hampton Inn & Suites – Duncan, SC)
 See previous *League Lines* for details

EARLY Registration Deadline: April 2 *

MAY

14 (Tu) –**Annual meeting – 5:30 PM**
Grecian Gardens on Hwy. 378.
 We will have a private room and will order dinner off the menu.

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Columbia Museum of Art Luncheon and Tour

"Impressionism, from Monet to Matisse"

Please join us at the Columbia Museum of Art, corner of Main and Hampton Streets, on **April 18, at 11:30** for lunch in The Secret Garden, whose walls were painted by Columbia artist Christian Thee in the *trompe l'oeil* style, followed by a tour of this special exhibit, led by LWV member Susan James.



Parking is available in several nearby garages, as well as along the median on Assembly St. – green meters give 2 hours on the museum side and blue meters give up to 5 hours on the St. Peter's side. You may want to "invest" in several hours of parking, because after the lunch and tour, you are welcome to visit the museum's collection upstairs *at no further charge*.

Reservations and payment are **REQUIRED** by April 11. Please mail your check for \$25—**made to LWV COLUMBIA**—to Treasurer **Martha Roblee** at 3701 MacGregor Drive, Columbia, SC 29206-2825.

Sorry, but no refund for no-shows.

* LWV Columbia will pay **registration fees** for its members attending the convention. Hotel rates increase **April 2**, so early registration is required. Attendees will each make and pay for own **hotel arrangements** and rooms can be shared. So "buddy up," if you wish. Columbia has several slots for voting delegates—10 or 11. **We will register as a group**, so let **Rita Paul** or **JoAnne Day** if you need more information OR wish to attend. This will be a wonderful introduction for new folks who want to know how the League works. The meeting is April 27–28, 2013 - Hampton Inn & Suites, Greenville, Spartanburg (Duncan).

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

The League year is winding down, but we certainly have places to go and jobs to do!

I hope you all enjoyed our February Public Policy luncheon as much as I did. Our speakers were excellent and shared a wealth of information on the Affordable Health Care Act. And in March we heard from our own *JoAnne Day* in an excellent presentation on Ethics Reform.

Special thanks to **Martha Roblee** for her “exploration” of different caterers for our luncheons! We have enjoyed new and different food. It’s a wonderful way to support the local economy while using a variety of vendors. As a friendly reminder, please make a concerted effort to make your reservation on time when you plan to eat. Each caterer has different expectations with regard to numbers and timing. **Susan James’** contact information always accompanies the reminders you receive about lunch.



Our April lunch will be a wonderful wrap-up to our spring events. On **April 18th** we will lunch at the **Columbia Museum of Art** and receive a tour of the Impressionism exhibit, guided by our member and museum docent, **Susan James**. It will be great fun and a fabulous way to support the arts in our community.

The State Convention is just around the corner – **April 27 and 28**. You have just received information about the week-end. Our League has funds set aside to assist with registration fees for our delegates. All of your board members will not be able to attend and some will be attending as State board representatives. Our delegates will be joining others from around the state in voting on the state League agenda going forward. **Please let me know as soon as possible, but no later than April 5th if you would like to attend as a Columbia League delegate.**

Finally, we are planning our Annual Meeting for **May 14th**, around dinner at Grecian Gardens. Watch for details. Please make every effort to attend as we vote on your new officers and board members as well as discuss and set our local League agenda for next year. More to come.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you over the next few months at our important League events as we close out this League year. Thanks for your dedication.

Rita

Welcome to New Members

As of March 15, we have 29 new & returning members: Welcome! We look forward to meeting you – either at the Columbia Museum of Art or at the Annual Meeting.

Moe Baddourah	Regina M. Fields	Carol Kososki	Julie Sellers
Dale Baer	Naomi Freedman	Susan Lake	Nancy Shillington-Perez
Carita Barr	Jamie Glover	Amelia Mann	Gertrude Shiver
Jane Brailsford	Kathy Handel	Pat Mohr	Jody Thomas
Danielle Brown	Ann C. Humphries	Jacqueline Murray-Bonno	Francina Willingham
Carla Damron	Sherry Jacenko	Ann Ozburn	
Dana Browne David	Moryah Jackson	Jerry Paul	
Anita Easter	Jennifer Kisner	Summer Ramsey	

SC Ethics Reform

We are in the midst of a very active legislative session. Besides our ongoing commitment to voters' rights, we are also focused on **ethics reform**. We have taken a strong proactive position on the subject and recently kicked off a statewide advocacy campaign, "Got Ethics." As part of this statewide outreach, we are asking the League's leadership to help us locally by informing key leaders about current action and garner support for the League's position. We need your help with outreach activities including writing op-eds, coordinating public appearances on the topic at relevant venues (i.e. Rotary meetings, Chamber of Commerce convenings, and other public forums), facilitating media relations where appropriate, and contacting your local representative while they are back in the district during this two-week recess.

Although we are encouraged by the proactive approach by the General Assembly to introduce multiple bills on ethics reform, we are highly concerned about the bills' effectiveness and ability to address real issues related to income disclosure, leadership PACs, violations, and access to information by the public. Senate and House Bills **S.338, S.346, S.347, S.505, H3422, H3772** and **H3163** set a good foundation but do not go far enough.

We will continue to make specific recommendations regarding all of these bills in testimony in the General Assembly. However, the following are central ethical problem areas that require significant strengthening in the bills that have been filed in one or both houses of the legislature.

We are asking the legislature to enact ethics reform that will:

- Eliminate "Leadership PACs" that subvert limits on donations to individual candidates and prevent adequate disclosure;
- Disclose ALL sources of compensation that can lead to conflicts of interest;
- Provide timely and affordable citizen access to information about government activities; and
- Ensure professional, thorough, and independent investigation and disciplinary action when there are violations of ethics laws.

We need your help to ensure REAL ethics reform happens in 2013. This is a unique opportunity to impact change that will encourage a fairer and more just political process moving forward. Your contacts and leadership at the local level will be essential to our success. If you are able to be directly involved with our outreach campaign, please contact me directly, or you may e-mail Tammie Hoy Hawkins (who is helping us with our campaign) at tammie@together-consulting.com. Our goal is to make your involvement easy and time effective. We have also attached a **summary of amendments [Status, March 2013]** we are requesting to be added to existing bills that reflect the above bullets.

Thank you for your commitment.

Lynn Teague, LWVSC Advocacy Director

JoAnne Day, LWVSC VP of Issues and Action

Please see attached Status Update for more information on specific bills and names of sponsors and supporters in the Legislature.

March PP Luncheon...Recap

The purpose of the League is to educate and advocate and *JoAnne Day*, Vice President for Issues and Action, lived up to that purpose at the March 21st luncheon.

Ethics reform is important because citizens need to *know* that their elected officials represent *them* and not just the biggest donors. Ethics reform is complicated ...it's all about making government work *for* "we the people."

For our members, new *and* old, today's presentation provided an opportunity to find out how they can get involved on multiple levels.

JoAnne began by giving a rundown on the bills presently in the House that are high on the League's *Agenda for Action*, with special attention to ethics reform and voting rights. She urges to contact our representatives and tell them

that we support the senate version of the voting bill **S4** which allows for ten days of early voting and does not change absentee voting provisions. Contacting your legislator is one of the roles of advocacy. Let me suggest that you visit the State Legislature website, www.scstatehouse.gov, and use it to track the many bills, some of which the League has taken a stand on, through the legislative cycle. That's part of the *education* aspect of the League. Note: You can always advocate on issues that also are important to **you**.

Our luncheon topic was **Ethics Reform** and our scheduled speakers were *JoAnne Day* and *Lynn Teague*. Unfortunately, Lynn was unable to be present because the House Judiciary sub-committee suddenly scheduled a hearing on the House ethics bill 3772 and Lynn, LWVSC Advocacy Director, was scheduled to testify before the committee. We have all seen the need for ethics reform, the most blatant case being the resignation of Lt. Governor Ken Ard. Ethics reform is important because citizens need to *know* that their elected officials represent *them* and not just the biggest donor. Ethics reform is complicated—with a long “to do” list. JoAnne presented several ways that the problem might be solved: campaign finance reform, disclosure of all sources of income to expose conflicts of interest, elimination of leadership PAC’s, improvements to FOIA. It’s all about making government work for “we the people”.

Presently, the State Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is also part of ethics reform. Open and transparent government requires access to public records in a reasonable time at a reasonable cost and **H.3163** is a great improvement in providing accessibility to public agency information. However, the bill faces problems with the inclusion of the General Assembly in this bill and this issue has been a “poison pill” for FOIA bills in the past. The League believes that General Assembly FOIA should be handled in a separate bill and allow **H.3163** to move forward.

Because this is a hot topic and there is quite a bit of information on the subject, visit the League’s state website and to learn more. While you’re there check out the material with regard to the State Convention.

Pam Craig

To renew or initiate League membership: Go to www.lwvcolumbiasc.org, click on “JOIN US” in left menu, and choose your level of membership.

Learn More League!

National [www.lwv.org/](http://www.lwv.org)
 State <http://lwvsc.org/>
 Columbia www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

MTRA Launch – Midlands Transit Riders Association

You are invited to the launch of the **Midlands Transit Riders Association** at **2 PM, April 3**, at CMRTA Transit Station, Laurel & Sumter St.

The MTRA was formed by bus riders and community advocates to give riders and advocates an effective voice in how to improve our public transit system.

Their mission statement is:

"The Midlands Transit Riders Association is a nonprofit organization of riders and advocates for safe, efficient, environmentally sensitive, affordable public transportation. We believe that our communities deserve public transportation that meets the needs of those who must use it, as well as a system good enough that people want to ride."

Their goals are:

- Educate the public about the benefits and challenges of public transit
- Facilitate the voice of riders in public transit decisions
- Serve as a vehicle for community input to improve public transit
- Reduce pollution through the use of alternative fuels, smaller buses and feeder routes
- Assure safe, well-maintained buses, shelters, stops and transit station
- Advocate for efficient service with expanded routes, days and hours of public transit
- Strive for affordable rider fees
- Reduce auto traffic through park-and-ride and expanded service

The goals of the MTRA are entirely consistent with those of CMRTA. The organization is a wonderful vehicle for ongoing two-way communication between the Transit Authority and our riders. The MTRA has already proved its effectiveness in registering voters and advocating for the penny sales tax to support transportation.

The CMRTA Board at its recent meeting, recognized how valuable it is to have a partnership with the Riders Association and voted to:

1. Demonstrate our support of this organization by participating in the launch.

2. Make a spot on each Board meeting agenda for a brief report from the MTRA
3. Designate a Board member or staff to attend MTRA meetings
4. Offer an ex-officio without vote seat on the Service and Standards Committee to the MTRA.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the MTRA, you can contact them at

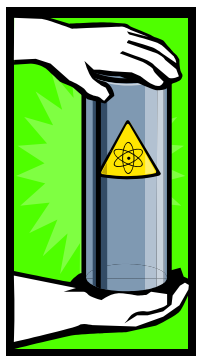
MidlandsTransit@gmail.com or call 803-808-3384.

There is no cost to joining the MTRA; there is, however, strength in numbers.

Hope to see you at the launch!

Lill Mood

NUCLEAR WASTE AT SRS



In June of 2012 the SRS “Community Reuse Organization” commissioned a \$200,000 study on resources that might contribute to solving the nation’s high-level nuclear waste problems by “inviting” commercial spent fuel to SRS. This group is an advocate for reprocessing commercial nuclear fuel, despite its challenges. The LWVSC opposes the “invitation” and is concerned that managing cold war wastes at SRS is already behind schedule and over budget, with at least 20 more years of management required. The “CRO” study is at <http://www.srsro.org/community-issues/comprehensive-fuel-cycle-research-study/>

A group of Aiken Citizens, “Don’t Waste Aiken,” also opposes the CRO “invitation” to bring more waste to the area, and one of their speakers was Robert Alvarez. Bob worked at the Department of Energy in the 1990s and remains a leader in promoting understanding safe storage of spent commercial nuclear fuel. His report clears up many misunderstandings, including the claim that reprocessing reduces the need for a geologic repository. His report is at <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B34tchlsLOXFY3RHahRMUU9IRE0/edit>.

The Sierra Club, which also opposes the “invitation,” brought David A. Lochbaum, the Director of the Nuclear Safety Project at the Union of Concerned Scientists, to discuss the recent NRC report of plant safety in the advent of Fukushima. He discussed plants in South Carolina and their vulnerability to fires, floods

and earthquakes. He feels that the nuclear regulations are generally adequate, but not properly enforced, and we are safe from fires, floods and earthquakes so long as we don’t have them!

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/nuclear_power/NRC-nuclear-safety-2012-summary.pdf

See interactive state-specific information at http://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear_power/reactor-map/embedded-flash-map.html

Finally, Arjun Makhijani, PhD, spoke to the Governor’s Nuclear Advisory Committee on “*Spent Fuel and Reprocessing Myths and Realities*.” He was very well received, and his presentation is available at <http://ieer.org/resource/testimony/spent-fuel-and-reprocessing-myths-and-realities/>



The State Energy Office has a newsletter “*Connection*” available for e-mail subscription or via their web site. For the past three years this office has been facilitating the needs of the “Stimulus” energy saving programs in South Carolina. Most of their tasks have been completed, many lessons have been learned. Summaries of these are at http://www.energy.sc.gov/newsletters/EC_March2013.pdf, as well as the full report and much more information. If you want to assist an NGO type of building to upgrade its energy performance, check out <http://www.energy.sc.gov/index.aspx?m=7&t=115>. LOTS of information.

Richland County Public Libraries have a “Kill-a-Watt” meter **you can check out** to determine what it costs to run that old refrigerator in the garage, or your computer. Go to: <http://richlandlibrary.com/how-to/energy-vampires-suck>. Lexington and other public libraries also have Kill-a-Watt meters available for checkout as a result of a collaboration of LWV/SC, the SC Library System, and the State Energy Office.



Enjoy the Spring
Flowers

Announcements & Items of Interest

Senator Gregory Is A Solar Leasing Champion!

Despite a disappointing setback in the House, **Republican Senator Greg Gregory of Lancaster** breathed new life into the solar leasing debate in South Carolina when he, bolstered by strong bipartisan support, introduced **Senate Bill 536**. The bill is identical to Rep. James Smith's original bill which stalled in the House in February. With Senator Gregory's leadership, solar leasing is back up for debate at the Statehouse, and your voice can profoundly influence this debate!

Please consider making the following two short phone calls. The first one is easy - please call and thank at least one of the following bill sponsors for their remarkable show of leadership and vision:

Senators

- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Gregory | (R-Lancaster) |
| Reese | (D-Spartanburg) |
| McElveen | (D-Sumter) |
| Hembree | (R-Horry) |
| Hutto | (D-Orangeburg) |
| Lourie | (D-Richland) |
| Campsen | (R-Charleston) |
| Cleary | (R-Georgetown) |
| Allen | (D-Greenville) |
| Shealy | (R-Lexington) |
| O'Dell | (R-Abbeville) |
| Campbell | (R-Berkeley) |
| Cromer | (R-Newberry) |
| Hayes | (R-York) |



Phone numbers are available here:
www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?chamber=S.

The **second call should go to your State Senator**, asking that he (our lone female Senator, Ms. Shealy, is already a sponsor) consider adding his name to **S.536**. Verbal support for the bill is welcomed, but we need firm commitments from the remaining Senators that they will join the current list of 14 sponsors. Only you, their constituents, can make this happen. Prove to yourself today that our representative democracy works!

As always, thank you for your diligent efforts,

Wiley Cooper [mail@change.org]

P.S. - Share this request and information with every South Carolinian you know...We all stand to benefit from greater market choice and lower utility rates!

ADVOCACY

Make an Impact on Climate Change with the Updated Climate Action Toolkit (NEW)

The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force encourages League members to consider adopting a **Climate Initiative** as part of their local program at their annual meetings this year. There are two issue areas in particular where Leagues can make a real impact on greenhouse gas emissions -- energy efficiency in buildings and renewable energy. The **Grassroots Action Priorities** section of the LWVUS Climate Action Toolkit includes detailed information about climate solutions. To share your League's story, please send your answers to **these questions** to Task Force Chair, Eleanor Revelle (er@revelle.net).

The Campaign Finance Task Force Requests Your Help. The CFTF is developing a **"Money in Politics Discussion Guide"** for Leagues across the country. We are interested in any outlines and materials you used within your League for this purpose so that we can share what you have done with others. Please send outlines and materials to Advocacy Committee Chair, Toni Larson toni.larson@gmail.com.

ACTION ALERT! Tell the U.S. Senate to keep the Budget Clean (NEW) Stand up today and tell your Senators that the environment is **not** a bargaining chip in the federal budget. **Tell your Senators to put people before polluters** by protecting our environment, fighting climate change and saying **no** to the Keystone XL Pipeline. **Share Our Strength!**

Visit the **LWV Clearinghouse** today to find League studies on more than **fifty** subject areas. The Clearinghouse was created in response to member requests to provide a central location for League studies at all levels. Leagues in California, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington have responded with numerous studies; the latest addition, from Michigan, concerns immigration.

TO FIND A STUDY: Browse by topic using the list on the left of the page or the search box at the top of the page.

TO SHARE A STUDY: Follow instructions on the site.

The Clearinghouse was designed, built, and tested by League members and is staffed by League volunteers from across the country. If you would like to help maintain, promote, and improve the Clearinghouse, contact the Ad Hoc Committee at clearinghouse@leagueofwomenvoters.org.



Are You Engaging Your Community Around Earth Day Activities? (NEW) Earth Day – April 22- offers a chance

to highlight the League’s great work over decades to protect our air and water quality. You have an opportunity to have this work featured by one of our national partners in community democracy building online. **AmericanTowns.com** offers citizens a chance to learn about activities and volunteer for events in their communities. Please fill out this **short survey** by **April 8th** and you will be included in their major Earth Day promotion!

[Click on words in **blue** above to follow links.]

Pamela Craig



League Media Stars!

You, too, can be a media star!

March 11 President **Rita Paul** spoke to a group of SC Girl Scouts who are honorary pages at the State House this year. Her subject was the history of LWV and its impact. .

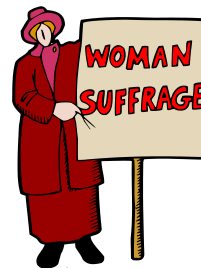
Lynn Teague was scheduled for SCETV's The Big Picture's April show on ethics reform; however, it was canceled due to budget cutbacks.

On **March 28**, **Martha Roblee** addressed the Council of Columbia Neighborhoods on the LWV, its history, and its mission went well. She left behind some “propaganda.” She was pleased to meet Ellen Cooper, one of our former presidents, who is head of her neighborhood and sits on the Council. My thanks to Keller and Rita for giving the League this opportunity for some community exposure.

The Council had requested the LWV of the Columbia Area to address their members as part of their recognition of Women’s History Month.

Mayor Benjamin, Councilwoman Devine, and Councilman Davis also spoke to the group at the beginning of the meeting, but left before hearing Martha. Before the meeting, Martha introduced herself to Ms. Devine, who remembered us from Saturday’s event and thanked the League for participating.

SUFFRAGE CELEBRATION



Several League members marched with the **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority** on a cold and windy **March 23, 2013**, to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the official recognition allowing African

American women to participate in the Suffragette Movement. The march, from Zion AME Church near Finlay Park to the State House, was a *re-enactment of the march from Finlay Park to the Statehouse*, and was followed by lunch at Seawell’s Restaurant.



Lexington County Council

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

For confirmation of meeting dates, please call 785-8103 or check website www.lex-co.com



Richland County Council

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

For more information, please contact the Clerk of Council Office @ (803) 576-2061 or check:

www.richlandonline.com/departments/countycouncil/index.asp or www.rcgov.us



Columbia City Council

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM
City Hall – 1737 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201

Check website at www.columbiasc.net for more information.

2012-2013 Board: President - Rita Paul; 1st VP - JoAnne Day (Legislative Action); 2nd VP – Sally Huguley; Secretary/Treasurer – Martha Roblee; Directors – Sej Harman (Communications/Membership); Sarah Leverette (State Liaison); Lynn Teague (Advocacy); Janie White. **Nominating Committee (2013-2014):** Janie White, chair, Cynthia Flynn, Sej Harman. **Off-Board:** Voter Services – Shirley Geiger; Website – JoAnne Day; Environmental Affairs - Chester Sansbury; Membership – Pam Craig; *League Lines* - Suzanne Rhodes / Sej Harman (Co-Editors).