



LEAGUE LINES

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www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Editor Suzanne Rhodes / Co-editor Sej Harman

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February 2013

CALENDAR & NEWS

FEBRUARY 2013

4 (M) – 5:30 PM - Board Meeting –
SC Nurses Association building
Gadsden Street.

All League members welcome. The Board meets the first Monday of each month.

11 (M) 5:30 PM Consensus Meeting
on **Teacher Evaluation & Retention**
Capital Senior Center (see p. 4)

PLEASE ATTEND:

The results of this consensus meeting may result in a new position for the state League and a new area for advocacy on how the state evaluates teachers.

Food and drink provided!

19 (Tu)–5:30–7:30 PM–Program Planning
Big T Bar-B-Que (7535-C Garners Ferry Rd. (across from Walmart; near Ollie's))
DUTCH TREAT

We'll focus on local recommended programs (i.e., public policy issues for study and action) for 2013-15. (see p. 2)

21 (Th)–11:45 AM–Policy Luncheon 

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

MARCH

21 (Th) – 11:45 AM Public Policy Luncheon

23 (Sat) – Suffragette March with
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Celebrating Women's Suffrage. (see p. 5)

APRIL

27-28 (S-Su) - 2013 LWVSC Convention
Duncan, SC [details in email attachment]

Public Policy Luncheon

Thursday, February 21, 2013 - 11:45 AM
Capital Senior Center - 1650 Park Circle

MEDICAL CENTER

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____ DATE _____

Rx

Cindy Ottone, Director – Policy Measures, National Committee for Quality Assurance, is our featured speaker. Her presentation will focus on the **Affordable Health Care Act**, its implementation and impact on health care.

Future Public Policy Luncheons will focus on revision of the *state ethics laws*.

Reservations Preferred

LABEL

REFILL 0 1 2 3 4 5 PRN NR

Susan B James at sc.rr.com or 256-6822
Cost is \$10 for the catered lunch or you may bring your own.

We'll be trying a new caterer...eat & critique!



Happy Valentine's Day

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

Hope everyone has been enjoying the “spring-like” weather! And I especially hope your daffodils aren’t zapped when the cold hits again this week! Happy to be in South Carolina!



Our January Public Policy Luncheon was great. Please enjoy the details in Pam Craig’s article (with Carol Medich’s help). It was inspiring to hear the wisdom and expertise of **Frank Holleman** and **Betsy Carpentier**. [Copies of Betsy’s PowerPoint presentation can be requested from Sej Harman at sejharman@att.net.] I am confident that their remarks will be of great benefit to all who participate in our **education study consensus** meeting on **Monday, February 11**. Remember this event **begins at 5:30** and will be held at the **Capital Senior Center**. I look forward to seeing as many of you as can be there. **Food and drink will be provided**. **Reservations preferred to: Susan James at 256-6822 or susanbjames@sc.rr.com**.

Also in February – we will conduct our annual **Program Planning meeting**. This meeting is set for **Tuesday, February 19**. Please make every effort to attend as your input into this annual event is vital for our planning going forward as well as information for our delegates to the LWVSC Convention in April.

LWVSC Biennial Convention is set for **Saturday and Sunday, April 27 – 28**, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 108 Spartangreen Blvd., Duncan, SC, hosted by the LWV of Spartanburg. Be part of grassroots democracy and help frame the League’s future in SC. All members and friends are welcome, but keep in mind only members can serve as voting delegates. Let a Board member know if you wish to attend. Stay tuned for updates. Information will go out in February and will also be posted at www.lwvsc.org.

Finally, I hope everyone had an opportunity to watch at least some of the inauguration of President Obama. It is always thrilling to see the carrying out of our democratic process once again. It reminds us of maintaining our diligence in ensuring our most precious right to vote.

Look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming events! As always, thanks for all you do to support the League.

Rita

PROGRAM PLANNING

Every year the League meets to determine what we want the League to do in the next two years--one year we consider national issues, the next year we consider state issues. This year we are doing state program planning in anticipation of April’s state League Convention. Some of the issues to be considered are education funding, education performance, water management, Medicaid Expansion, home rule, funding for mental health, tax reform, and issues related to voting and elections, just to name a few. Come and be a grass root!

When: Tuesday, February 19, 5:30 – 7:30 PM **Where:** Big T Bar-B-Que (7535-C Garners Ferry Road (across from Walmart; near Ollie’s). **Dutch Treat:** The meal will *not* be separately catered, but attendees will go through their line/counter and choose what they want to eat.

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

MEDICAID EXPANSION (ME)

ME plods along in South Carolina. Governor Nikki Haley and Director of Health and Human Services Anthony “Tony” Keck are adamantly opposed to accepting Medicaid Expansion. They continue to say they have a better plan for those in the State who need ME, but have shown nothing to date except for self-help encouragement and broadening of the CHIPS program. Lt. Governor Glenn McConnell cautions that ME is necessary, but only if waivers are accepted so that the state will not be held to the rigidity of the mandates from the Federal government. The waivers would allow the states to tailor the monies from ME to the best possible use within each state while remaining within the spirit of the law.

About \$11 billion is involved in the first 3 years of ME. The Feds will pay for 100% for the first three years and gradually phase to 90% Federal money and 10% state money. SC will pay the difference going forward after the first three years.

Potential savings for the State may come from increased Medicaid spending on mental health. This would free up mental health monies to be spent elsewhere. It may also help to keep people out of the criminal justice system. ME would allow access to preventive health care for adults and children and, hopefully, better overall health for all South Carolinians and less stress on the existing health care system. Obviously, there will be much soul-searching, research and arm-twisting before any decision is made.



AARP and the Coalition supporting ME, which includes the League [see flyer in January *League Lines*], continue to develop its position and is formulating a campaign to present its pro-ME position to the Governor and to the members of the House and the Senate. Major advocacy efforts must continue, and all groups involved think that pressure on individual members of the Legislature and on the Governor may bear fruit. This will be a long and protracted battle. More information will be forthcoming. *Contact your legislator and convince him or her that something major needs to be done soon.*

Al Roblee

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

On January 17, 2013 *Keller Barron* invited all who could come to her home for new member orientation. It was an opportunity to learn more about the Columbia Area League. *Jody Thomas, Carla Damron, Regina Fields, Kathy Handel,* and *Julie Sellers*, all new members, accepted the invitation and were glad they did.



Keller, Sarah Leverette, Rita Paul, Janie White, Carol Medich, and *Shirley Geiger* presented. Keller gave an overview of the history, organization, and mission of the League. Sarah reviewed activities at the State level including advocacy, studies (including the current education study), as well as the role of the State Convention. Rita provided information on the local League including its Bylaws, Program, and the Program Planning process. Janie described League funding, dues, the budget, and the Education Fund. Carol gave a report on voter service activities over the past year. She and Shirley discussed some of their experiences at voter registration events.

The new members then completed information sheets indicating which areas were of most interest to them. We look forward to including those issues in our ongoing activities.

I hate to tell this to the new members, but they'll find out soon enough. All that education did not earn you CEUs, but it did provide you with the basic tenet of the League, to encourage you to become an informed citizen and take an active role in government. We look forward to seeing you at many future League events. Please check the *League Lines* and our websites for information about the upcoming consensus and State Convention.

Pam Craig / Carol Medich

January PP Luncheon...Recap

The January Public Policy Luncheon program was true to form because it highlighted the current issue of *teacher evaluation* with two knowledgeable speakers, former US Deputy Secretary of Education **Frank Holleman** and attorney **Betsy Carpentier**, policy analyst for the SC Association of School Administrators.

Speaking first, Frank immediately let it be known that public education is the greatest creation of American democracy. It is offered in every community to every child without regard to location, wealth, race or language. As an advocate for public education, Frank has strong opinions about current teacher evaluation proposals. He stated the state cannot "evaluate" teachers. Such a focus lets everyone else (politicians, students, parents) off the hook. Evaluation of the teacher does not take into account many of the issues that strongly affect the student, including poverty, mental health and immigration issues, which are completely out of the teacher's control. Student achievement is the responsibility of the community, not just the teacher. Frank feels strongly that if the community addressed the issues of adequate teacher compensation, provision of necessary teaching supplies, and community prestige (recognizing the important role of teachers), there would be a change in the education outcome.

Betsy spoke on the current teacher evaluation plans advanced by State Superintendent Mick Zais, and the counter proposal developed by state education groups and endorsed by the State Board of Education. Betsy described the types of evaluations offered by each group and validated Frank's presentation, especially concerning issues over which teachers have no control. She pointed out research indicating the family accounts for 60 percent of a student's academic outcome.

She continued that central to any useful evaluation plan would be the type of tests given to students. Betsy said the current PASS test measures only mastery of curriculum standards at a certain grade level. It is different from an adaptive test, which gives a better understanding of the achievement level of a student, whether higher or lower than

grade-level standards. She said a better approach to increasing student achievement would be more teacher planning time, professional development and instruction, improved classroom environment, and content proficiency.

The material presented by the speakers will be valuable for the **February 11th consensus meeting** and will contribute to an informative presentation and spirited discussion. Please visit the website for additional information on the State League teacher evaluation study. Important to read are the consensus questions, executive summary and the alternate perspective. <http://www.lwvsc.org/teacherretention.html>

Additional links: www.tinyurl.com/edeval contains a page on the SCASA website that has links to the key documents used in Betsy's presentation.

CONSENSUS MEETING

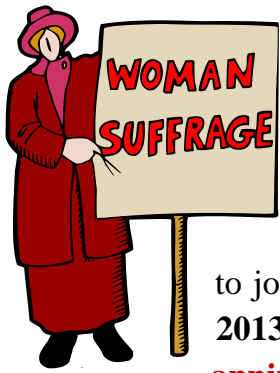
On the League's position on Teacher Evaluation + Retention

Feb. 11, 5:30 PM – Capital Senior Center

Food & Drink provided

You should inform yourself of the issue and consensus questions prior to the meeting. The State League's Education Study Committee report, "How to Evaluate and Retain Effective Teachers" and accompanying documents can be found at: www.lwvsc.org. In the left-hand list, click on **LWVSC Studies: Teacher Eval / Retention**.

Please familiarize yourself with three important documents: 1) consensus questions; 2) Executive Summary of the state study; 3) the Alternative Perspective, written by LWVSC's Education Study members **Janelle Rivers** and **Sally Huguley**. **Together**, the Executive Summary and the alternative perspective provide balance on this consensus issue. The main report emphasizes the **corporate** view of teacher evaluation; the alternative perspective presents research findings and opinions by educators, economists and psychologists as well as the impact of poverty on children's academic achievement.



SUFFRAGETTE CELEBRATION

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has invited the LWV of the Columbia Area to join the sorority on **March 23, 2013, to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the official recognition allowing African American women to participate in the Suffragette Movement.** The Board agreed to participate in the *re-enactment of the march from Finlay Park to the Statehouse*, followed by lunch at Seawell’s Restaurant.



Janie & Robin White are monitoring Richland County Council meetings, *Martha & Al Roblee* are monitoring City of Columbia Council meetings, and *Lil Mood* is monitoring the Lexington County Council meetings. If you wish to join them, let them know.

Carol Medich and her team of volunteers who have spearheaded the Columbia League’s Voter Services. They’ve conducted several voter registration events as part of the LWVSC focus on registering young voters.

The Winter 2013 SC Voter has all the details.

An interesting website about courageous women activists who armed themselves to fight for equality—
<http://www.badreputation.org.uk/2011/09/12/revoluting-women-the-ju-jutsuffragettes/>

Voting Issues....continuing saga

As of December 31, the analysis of SEC data is available statewide. Richland County exceeded the State numbers. Let Suzanne know if you want more data: *Duncan Buell* has played a major part in the issue of several voting discrepancies during the last election and the analysis of voting data.

**State Election Commission Voter Registration
 January 2012 to November 2012**

Analysis of Voter Registration Data

SEC Registered Voter Data
 January 2012 and November 2012
 Voters 18 – 24 years Old

	Jan.	Nov.	Change	% Change
LEXINGTON	13,345	15,788	2,443	18.31
RICHLAND	23,968	30,471	6,503	27.13
Total Voters	243,331	288,728	45,397	18.66

We're thinking about.....

...League member *Horace Holleman* who is recuperating from recent knee surgery. We wish him well and hope to see him back on his feet soon.

The Columbia League’s Communications Policy will soon be on the website. It will outline the League’s approach to communications as we work to provide members and friends timely, relevant information.

Announcements & Items of Interest

President Obama Signs New Directive to Strengthen our Work to Advance Gender Equality Worldwide

On January 31, President Obama signed a **Presidential Memorandum** to strengthen and expand U.S. government capacity and coordination across all agencies to better promote gender equality and empower women and girls.

You may click above link to the Memorandum, follow a **blog post** by Valerie Jarrett, Chair of the White House Council on Women & Girls, and Samantha Power, or follow Jarrett on Twitter “@vj44.”

[For a PDF copy of the Memorandum, email Sej Harman: sejharman@att.net.]

Announcements.... Continued

Voter Registration Modernization in the Spotlight


The Brennan Center for Justice held a panel discussion on voter registration modernization this week in DC, with Secretaries of State from MN, ND, NV and OR who discussed the need for on-line voter registration modernization.


In conjunction with the panel discussion the Brennan Center also released a new publication – The Case for Voter Registration Modernization. Check out this concise and informative document.

Registration modernization is one of the four pro-voter reform issues the League has identified as priorities this year at the state and federal level.

Global Democracy: Women and the Rule of Law: A View from the Americas

A one-day conference, jointly sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Inter-American Dialogue, and International Association of Women Judges, will take place in Washington DC, on February 27, 2013. The conference will showcase the progress that women have made in gaining access to judicial leadership positions across the Americas. A central purpose will be to draw on the collective experience of accomplished judges to develop recommendations on how to enhance the positive role of women in the judiciary.

 **AED DEVICES:** a quick video on those AED devices – Each of us could save a life! Don't let them intimidate us – knowledge is power! In the video, when the guy falls there are *two* choices and either one seems to work; you **must** choose one, however, to continue. <http://www.heartrescuenow.com/>


 Upcoming Exhibit at Columbia Museum of Art: **“Monet to Matisse.”** If there's interest, we encourage getting together as a group to schedule a docent's tour.





League Media Stars!

You, too, can be a media star!

Sarah Levevette participated in a Martin Luther King Day two younger attorneys and State Supreme Court Justice Jean Toal. They addressed the multi-generation goals of the empowerment of women to pursue social justice. The event was sponsored by the Black Law School Association and was well attended.

 **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.

Presidents' Day
February 18

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 Levevette (State Liaison); Lynn Teague (Advocacy); Janie White. **Nominating Committee (2013-2014):** Janie White. **Off-Board:** Voter Services – Shirley Geiger; Website – JoAnne Day; Environmental Affairs - Chester Sansbury; Membership – Pam Craig; *League Lines* - Suzanne Rhodes / Sej Harman (Co-Editors).