



**Calendar**

**May**

**Sat., 13, 8 - 4: Recycling** at SC State Fairgrounds, 1200 Rosewood Drive. This is a big event. They take just about everything and you needn't leave your vehicle. For details:

<http://rcgov.us/Home/Events/TabId/102/ArtMID/721/ArticleID/1251/Richland-Recycles-Day.aspx>

**Thurs., 18, 5:30 PM: Annual Meeting:**

At Pat Forbis' home; short business meeting at 6:00. Consider bringing finger foods: heavy hors d'oeuvres or finger desserts. Wine will be provided. Carpooling suggested. See flyer for more details

**Fri., 19: Articles Due**

([suzrhodes@juno.com](mailto:suzrhodes@juno.com)) for likely **June League Lines** to summarize both the legislative year and the LWV Columbia Area year. A reminder and possible clarification will be circulated in mid-May.



**NO PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON IN MAY**

**THE PREZ SEZ**

**JULIE'S JEMS:** Julie gets a break this month. Janie White reports she talked to Julie after the procedure. Julie is doing fine. She has some soreness related to the procedure she underwent but is well and gaining strength every day!



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**ANNUAL MEETING – LWV Columbia Area must conform to National’s 2016 BY-LAWS CHANGE IN ARTICLE III**, per 2016 National Convention. Membership year definition deleted to be consistent with all Leagues.

*Sec. 1.* Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVUS shall be eligible for membership.

- A. *Sec. 2.* Types of Membership.
- Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

- B. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members...

#### **ANNUAL MEETING – Slate**

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all Columbia League members who expressed an interested in or considered running for a Board position. We strove to create a slate that would complement the continuing Board members by including seasoned Leaguers who can give guidance by virtue of their institutional memory as well as those who can fulfill our need to develop future leaders. We are very excited about the slate of officers that we will be presenting for vote at the annual meeting:

#### **Directors to be elected for July 2017-June 2019:**

- President—Janelle Rivers,
- 1st Vice President—Laura Woliver,
- Secretary—Sharon Ayling, and
- Directors—Janie White and JoAnne Day

#### **Directors to be elected to fill unexpired term July 2017-June 2018:**

- 2nd Vice President--Frances Ashe-Goines

#### **Nominating Committee for 2017-2018:**

- Marianne McGrath, Pat Manley, Judy Whiting

We hope all League members who would like to become more involved will reach out to our new president, Janelle Rivers, and volunteer to lead or serve on one of our many committees.

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## OTHER NEWS

### APRIL Public Policy Luncheon

**Summaries: It was a great gathering.**



Congaree Riverkeeper Bill Stangler spoke. Bill “picks fights” and he wins fights, too. Five years ago, Bill became the first full-time Congaree Riverkeeper (<http://congareriverkeeper.org>). He monitors the water quality of the Saluda River, the Broad River, and the Congaree River. His organization just won a Clean Water Act Citizen Lawsuit against the private sewer utility Carolina Water Service resulting in a \$1.5 million fine and an order from the federal judge requiring that the company end raw sewage discharges into the lower Saluda River from its I-20 plant by April 1, 2018.

Bill said the two most important tips he can give us are: 1) Do not pour grease down your sink -- this is the number one cause of sewer spills; and 2) Always report sewage overflows and other pollution problems you may see! Congaree Riverkeeper's pollution hotline number is [803-760-3357](tel:803-760-3357) and DHEC's 24-hour emergency response line for chemical spills, oil spills, and fish kills is [888-481-0125](tel:888-481-0125). See also the county contact numbers ([http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/DHECLocations/.](http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/DHECLocations/))

Bill also urges us to contact our State representatives to oppose S105, which

at the time of this article was in the House Judiciary Committee. This bill would end the automatic stay provided at the Administrative Law Court for citizens affected by activity permitted by DHEC. In the bill's current form, S105 places the costly burden on citizens to prove the necessity of the stay. LWVSC's Lynn Teague testified against this bill as it was originally proposed:

[http://www.lwvsc.org/files/2017S105\\_Automatic\\_Stay\\_Testimony.pdf](http://www.lwvsc.org/files/2017S105_Automatic_Stay_Testimony.pdf).

*Margaret Anne DuBose.*



**More on April PPL:** I don't think a more relevant guest speaker could have been chosen. It was the perfect topic for this month. Our weather has already proved “on the water” worthy, and our speaker, was able to tell us whether or not “in the water” is a good idea. Bill's background seems to be waterlogged. He has spent much of his time on our local rivers doing research or as a guide; listening to him talk, it doesn't seem that he can separate work from fun. In fact, he is one of those people who truly loves what he does.

Water is the basis of life, and Bill's job is to preserve that life by protecting our water. He is part of the Waterkeeper Alliance, which is a global movement located on six continents. The mission is

to protect and improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation on the Congaree, Lower Saluda and Lower Broad Rivers through advocacy, education and enforcement of environmental laws.

The idea of protecting our waters started in my home state of New York. Commercial fishermen on the Hudson River saw that the river was dying because of companies dumping waste and sewage into the river. The fishermen's first idea was to shove a mattress in the drainpipes to prevent the sewage from entering the river, but then they decided to sue the companies in court. The idea worked and spread across the country.

In our state of South Carolina, since 2008, Alpine Sewer has dumped over a million gallons of sewage. The company was fined, but it was cheaper to pay the fines than to correct the problem. By 2009, once the Riverkeeper was up and running, Alpine sold out. They took the money and ran and leaving Carolina Water Service holding the bag. If this proves anything, it proves the determination of Bill Stangler. Goliath ran once Bill raised the banner of the Congaree Riverkeeper. With the support of the Southern Environmental Law Center, a federal judge recently fined the Carolina Water Service \$1.5 million and ordered the company to stop discharging sewage from its I-20 plant. As with many companies, Carolina Water Service had hoped that time and money would help them win their case, but they were wrong. They also tried to get DHEC to give them a permit to allow them to continue polluting, but a public hearing brought out over 300 people

opposing it. You can make a difference. When you write to your representative, attend a rally, or make a phone call, you are not one. You are one plus one plus one plus one, etc.

The Riverkeeper performs monthly water analysis on a standard acceptable in court. This is important because when the budget crisis hit the states, many states cut sampling programs. So Bill is doing a job that used to be done by your taxes. Visit Bill's website (<http://congareriverkeeper.org>).

Support for the Automatic Stay bill, S105, is also necessary. This bill stops companies from doing things that cannot be undone. It allows for a "stay" of action while the issue is reviewed by the courts. You cannot unfill a wetland or undump toxic waste. A side bar: the monies collected as fines do not go to correct the problem -- half of the amount is put into the General Fund.  
*Pam Craig*

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#### **OBSERVATION CORPS SUMMARIES**

##### **Richland County Elections and Voter Registration Board**

Richland County Elections and Voter Registration Board, Called Meeting - March 17, 1:00 p.m.

**Observers:** Robin & Janie White

Present were Board members Adams, Emerson, Kennedy; Ms. Holly called in.

Director Selph was also present. Minutes of March 1 meeting were discussed. Board members expressed appreciation for LWV attendance and interest. They wanted to know if we would be attending future meetings.

Discussion in the public meeting centered around which, if any, attorneys represented the Board and/or Director Selph. William Spillane represents only Director Selph. Regina Wilson represents the Board on certain cases. The Governor has not signed off on new Commissioner Mack. Cliff LeBlanc, reporter for *The State*, reminded the Board of FOIA requirements regarding publishing names of finalists for the Director's position. The Board went into Executive Session at 1:30 PM to discuss legal matters and was estimated to remain in Executive Session until at least 4:00 PM. With the Board still in Executive Session at 3:45 p.m., the LWV-Columbia observers departed. Reporter for *The State*, Cliff LeBlanc, indicated that he would be writing an article concerning the Board of Elections soon.

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**Richland County Elections and Voter Registration Board, Called Meeting – March 27, 2017. 10:00 a.m.**

**Observer:** Robin White

This was a Called Board Meeting, Members present: Adell Adams, Chair; Jane Dreher Emerson; E. Peter Kennedy. Members absent: Sylvia Holley, Samuel J. Selph, Director. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by the Chair. The adoption of the Agenda was approved unanimously. The minutes of the March 17, 2017

meeting were unanimously approved with one correction. Attorney Spillane no longer represents any party in Board legal matters.

During the public question portion of the meeting, the issue was raised that posting of meeting minutes has been inconsistent. Staff assured that the problems with posting minutes has been corrected and future meeting minutes will be available shortly after Board approval. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:07 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:43 a.m. The Chair moved that the Board continue to use the services of Director Selph until April 2, 2017 to allow more time to find a successor. The motion passed and the Board indicated that it would start interviewing five candidates for the position of Director commencing on March 27, 2017. The interviews will be held in an undisclosed location. No information will be published regarding the five candidates, as this round is preliminary. Announcement of finalists will be made after consultation with County Human Relations. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

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**Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Board, Regularly Scheduled Meeting - April 12, 2017**

**Observers:** Janelle Rivers, Robin and Janie White

[NOTE: The county web site has two different places for posting agendas and minutes. Only one is active, and it is difficult to find. The active page is posted under "Boards" on the county web site, and the agenda for this

regular meeting was posted there and available at the door.]

Members present: Adell Adams, Chair; Jane Dreher Emerson; Sylvia Holley, E. Peter Kennedy. Shirley Mack, Samuel J. Selph, Director.

Appointment of the fifth board member, Shirley Mack, which has been pending for several months, was recently made by Governor Henry McMaster. She and other Board members were formally sworn in by Rep. James Smith, who is now chair of the Richland County delegation. Rep. Smith announced that the Elections and Voter Registration Board members would now meet with the entire delegation on a periodic basis; the first meeting was tentatively planned for Thursday of the week following this Board meeting, at the Blatt Building.

The Director announced the estimated cost and plans for the upcoming election in District 70 on May 2 and that polling sites would be handicapped accessible. Mr. Selph also reported that 30 of 149 precincts were deficient, mostly because they were not accessible for people with disabilities, and he has reached an agreement with the federal government to work to correct this problem.

Chair Adams reported that the new election of Board Members would take place in October, and election of Chair and Vice Chair would be at the regularly scheduled May meeting. Members then went into Executive Session with no formal reason other than "personnel matters." Observers waited until the Executive Session

ended; however, the board adjourned without updating the public on any issues and without taking formal action. There was no announcement of the status of the search process.

**Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Board, Called Meeting – April 20, 2017, 10 a.m.**

**Observer:** Robin White

This meeting was to announce the selection of the new Director of Elections. Members present were Adell Adams, Jane Dreher Emerson, and E. Peter Kennedy. Absent were Sylvia Holley and Shirley Mack. Three members present fulfilled the quorum requirement. Normal meeting protocol was followed with one motion made and approved to have Mr. Selph retained as Director until the last day of April. The next motion made and approved was to vote for the new Director of Elections. One name was placed in nomination - Rokey W. Suleman, II. All members present voted in the affirmative and, since the members present constituted a quorum, the motion passed. Mr. Suleman will officially become Director on May 1, 2017.

The Board went into Executive Session concerning a personnel matter and no other votes were taken.

After the meeting was adjourned, Mr. Suleman was available for interview by the press; reporters from The State and Free Times were present.

Mr. Suleman, whose parents live in Irmo, has significant experience in voter registration and elections in the District of Columbia and Fairfax

County. Both of those districts have a larger population and are significantly more complex than Richland County. Mr. Suleman has a Master's degree in Public Administration and is a member of American MENSA. He has worked as a consultant for election methodology in developing nations around the world. He understands that Richland County is a challenge, and his goal is to make the voting process transparent and responsive to all voters. He stated his hope that Richland County would become the "poster child" for voting in South Carolina. His contract is for two years.

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### **Lexington County Council**

#### ***Lexington County Council Meeting – March 28, 2017***

**Observer:** Sharon Ayling

Meetings of Lexington County Council are well advertised. The regular Public Meeting of the Council is held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers of the County Administration Building. A video of the meetings is available live or online at [www.lex-co.sc.gov](http://www.lex-co.sc.gov). The agenda is published online.

Agenda topics for March 28 included Budget, Economic Development, Tax Base, Health & Human Services, Library Grants, and Purchases. With a total budget of approximately \$237 million dollars, there will be a shortfall of \$37 million dollars, so no new programs can be budgeted for the coming fiscal year. Some budget items are: \$23 million for fire services, \$50 million for law enforcement, \$90 million for library services, \$23 million for solid

waste, and \$5 million for Lexington Airport (not including matching federal funds). Personnel costs make up 70% of the county budget. Lexington County expects a 4% growth rate. The population is currently 720,000. The county is waiting to see how much additional contribution will be required from Lexington County to go towards the SC Legislature's Retirement plan. All votes in this meeting were unanimous.

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### **Columbia City Council**

#### ***Columbia City Council - April 4, 2017, regularly scheduled meeting***

**Observer:** Margaret Anne DuBose

Agenda was published on website in advance and available at the door.

Appointments to three commissions were announced, including appointment of Helen Munnerlyn to serve on the City of Columbia Election Commission. Helen is Executive Director at Leadership SC.

Consent agenda and zoning matters were both adopted without discussion. (Mayor Benjamin recused himself, explaining that the zoning matters concerned his neighborhood and he did not want the appearance of impropriety).

Mayor Benjamin introduced discussion about the creation of a Food Policy Committee. Missing information and lack of agreement led the Council to defer the vote on the issue until next meeting. Councilman Duvall asserted this was the first he heard of the issue and asked how it is going to be funded and what Columbia staffers would be

required to work on it. Councilman Rickenmann also commented that the idea, as presented, was too broad and there were no specific details. Mayor Benjamin was adamant that the resolution would pass, if not this week, then at the next meeting. Councilman McDowell made an emotional appeal, saying the hungry are crying out for solace. Councilman Davis was not opposed to deferring. A representative for Midlands Food Alliance spoke to the need. Apparently discussions have been taking place, although they were not well communicated to all council members. Mayor Benjamin altered his position, saying they would discuss it this week. Councilman Rickenmann asked the city to make a recommendation, but Teresa Wilson said that was not the city employee's function; her understanding was the Council would appoint outside leaders to the committee, selecting people who have specialized knowledge to advise the city.

**Columbia City Council - April 18, 2017**

**Observer:** Margaret Anne DuBose

This was a regularly scheduled meeting, though only Mayor Benjamin and four of the six council members were present; Daniel Rickenmann was absent, and Moe Baddourah has been suspended by Gov. McMaster. A resolution creating a Food Policy Committee, which was contested in the April 4 meeting, was passed unanimously without discussion.

May 19, 2017 is Bike to Work Day in Columbia.

Council members nominated some people for a nine-member Quiet Zone Advisory Committee to address the issue of railroad noise (from trains passing through the city); committee positions are still available.

Rev. McDowell introduced the issue of renaming a section of street in honor of a bishop. Rev. McDowell was insistent that the resolution not be delayed, because he had plans - apparently to honor the Bishop Edward Smith-- the following Sunday. Discussion revealed that there is no formal road naming policy. Councilwoman Isaac Devine stated her preference to abstain because it was not known if the residents on the street had been consulted. The city attorney advised Councilwoman Isaac Devine that, since she was present, she was required to vote. The renaming finally passed.

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**SPECIAL NEWS:**



**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**

*What is democracy?*

*What does democracy do when it works?*

*What can we do to make democracy work, or work better?*

- The first step to answering those question is to use democracy.



- That means taking responsibility.
- That means working together to understand democracy and look for the best ways to make it work.
- That means volunteering to be on the Columbia League of Women Voters committee to plan our Making Democracy Work project(s). Call or email Mel Jenkins, 803-603-4351 ([citycivics@earthlink.net](mailto:citycivics@earthlink.net))

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#### UPDATE ON SC NUCLEAR

**PLANTS:** The following link is a description of the current nuclear power construction status in SC and GA. The League has not taken a position on whether continued construction should be undertaken at SCE&G's V. C. Summer Plants No. 2 and 3 or alternatively whether the project should be abandoned in favor of other options. We must all insist, however, that any decision prioritize a sound outcome for ratepayers, not just shareholders. It isn't legally or practically feasible to amend the Base Load Review Act (BLRA) for V. C. Summer because the project has gone too far for a major change in rate-setting rules. However, we strongly support efforts by the SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to protect ratepayers to the extent possible as decisions are made about the project. ORS has employed a bankruptcy attorney to help defend ratepayer interests and is taking other steps to

protect consumers, Bankruptcy proceedings for Westinghouse will take years. In the meantime, decisions must be made regarding continued construction. Ratepayers must insist that those decisions do not further socialize risk and capitalize profits, a common situation in the energy industry and one enshrined in the current version of South Carolina's BLRA.

For future projects (including the proposed Duke Energy plant in Lee County), the LWVSC strongly supports amending the blank check BLRA legislation. H. 4022 has been introduced in the S. C. House of Representatives by Rep. Kirkman Finlay (R-Richland) and other sponsors. This bill would amend the law for future projects to provide regulatory agencies with the tools that they need to protect ratepayers. We have asked members to reach out to legislators in support of this bill and will continue to ask for support in passing this important legislation.

See: details at

<http://www.cleanenergy.org/2017/04/21/westinghouse-bankruptcy-nuclear-train-wrecks/>.

*Lynn Teague*

#### (Why people are) CHANGING MINDS

**ON CLIMATE CHANGE:** Very encouraging article.

<http://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2017/04/changing-minds-on-a-changing-climate/>

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## BOARD CONTACT INFO - 2015-2016 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE COLUMBIA AREA

### OFFICERS

President	Julie Sellers	<a href="mailto:Jsellers13@sc.rr.com">Jsellers13@sc.rr.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President and Membership	Janelle Rivers	<a href="mailto:rivers12@bellsouth.net">rivers12@bellsouth.net</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Women's Health	Pat Forbis	<a href="mailto:pforbis@sc.rr.com">pforbis@sc.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Sharon Ayling	<a href="mailto:rsayling@gmail.com">rsayling@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ann Maletic	<a href="mailto:annmaletic@gmail.com">annmaletic@gmail.com</a>

### DIRECTORS/PORTFOLIOS

Local Government Director	Missy Caughman	<a href="mailto:mpcaughman@earthlink.net">mpcaughman@earthlink.net</a>
Education Director and Web site	Pat Mohr	<a href="mailto:patmohr@mindspring.com">patmohr@mindspring.com</a>
Web site	Rana Davis	<a href="mailto:ranadavis@hotmail.com">ranadavis@hotmail.com</a>
Environment Director	Margaret Anne DuBose	<a href="mailto:mabdubose@att.net">mabdubose@att.net</a>
Voter Services Director	Mel Jenkins	<a href="mailto:citicivics@earthlink.net">citicivics@earthlink.net</a>
Nominating Committee	Marianne McGrath	<a href="mailto:mcgrathlady@gmail.com">mcgrathlady@gmail.com</a>
League Lines	Pat Manley	<a href="mailto:dancerpem@outlook.com">dancerpem@outlook.com</a>

### OFF-BOARD COMMITTEE HEADS

Reservations	Susan James	<a href="mailto:Sc.susanbjames@gmail.com">Sc.susanbjames@gmail.com</a>
Communications	Sej Harman	<a href="mailto:sejharman@att.net">sejharman@att.net</a>
Transportation	Lil Mood	<a href="mailto:lh mood@bellsouth.net">lh mood@bellsouth.net</a>
Membership Coordinator	Janie White	<a href="mailto:Jbwhite64@gmail.com">Jbwhite64@gmail.com</a>
Environmental Liaison	Chester Sansbury	<a href="mailto:csanbury1@sc.rr.com">csanbury1@sc.rr.com</a>
League Lines	Suzanne Rhodes	<a href="mailto:suzrhodes@juno.com">suzrhodes@juno.com</a>

### OTHER COMMITTEES

#### Nominating Committee:

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Marianne McGrath, Chair, Pat Manley & Janie White

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**Websites:**

**National:** [www.lwv.org/](http://www.lwv.org/)

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

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

**Facebook:** *To see our Facebook Page:*

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


**That's it!**


**Twitter:**


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

**Facebook and Twitter email address:**  
[leagueofwomenvoterscolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:leagueofwomenvoterscolumbia@gmail.com)

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 **Columbia City Council**  
 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM City Hall 1737 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201  
 Check website at [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net) for more information.

 **Lexington County Council**  
 Meet: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 212 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29072  
 For confirmation of meeting dates, please call 785-8103 or check website [www.lex-co.com](http://www.lex-co.com)

 **Richland County Council**  
 Meet: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29202.  
 For more information, please contact the Clerk of Council Office @ (803) 576-2060 or check: [www.richlandonline.com](http://www.richlandonline.com)

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