



League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area

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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CALENDAR & NEWS

NOVEMBER

15 (Th) – 11:45 AM

Public Policy Luncheon



21 (W) – Last day to submit items to
December *League Lines*

DECEMBER

6 (Th) – SAVE THE EVENING FOR OUR

HOLIDAY PARTY and
**Celebration of LWW Columbia's
65th anniversary**

UU Congregation of Columbia
2701 Heyward Street,
corner of Heyward & Woodrow

DETAILS TO COME

Watch for Special Invitation

APRIL 2013

18 & 19 (Th / F) – LWVSC Convention
in Spartanburg

Public Policy Luncheon

Thursday, November 15, 2012 - 11:45 AM

Capital Senior Center

Debbie Elmore, director of communications for the SC School Boards Association, will present on the proposed **SC Education Finance Restructuring Act**, a plan to address public school funding inequities. The plan was developed by the state School Boards Association, the SC Association of School Administrators, and the SC Association of School Business Officials. Ms. Elmore made this presentation at State League Leaders Day in September.”



Reservations

Susan B James at sc.rr.com or 256-6822

**Please respond so we can have your nametag
ready and adequate seating.**

**Cost is \$10 if you wish the catered lunch
or you may bring your own.**

2012-2013 Board: President - Rita Paul; 1st VP - JoAnne Day (Legislative Action); 2nd VP - Sally Huguley; Secretary - Martha Roblee; Treasurer - Pat Davy; Directors - Sej Harman (Communications/Membership); Marilyn Knight; Sarah Leverette (State Liaison); Lynn Teague (Advocacy). **Nominating Committee (2013-2014):** TBA. **Off-Board:** Voter Services - Carol Medich; Website - Teri Evans; Environmental Affairs - Chester Sansbury; *League Lines* - Suzanne Rhodes / Sej Harman (Co-Editors).

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

Special thanks to **Carol Medich** and all the other dedicated volunteers for the numerous voter registration drives and candidate forums conducted all year, and especially this autumn. No task is larger and more critical to the mission of the League than voter registration and education. Thanks so much!



With this in mind, you will see a wrap-up voter registration report from Carol below. In addition, the League moderated and/or assisted recently with: a candidate forum on environmental issues sponsored by the Sierra Club; a candidate forum for Richland School District Two; and a League-sponsored forum for Richland County Council candidates.

Thanks to **JoAnne Day, Carol Medich, Janie White, Sally Huguley, Martha Roblee, Marzi Knight, Katherine Swartz, Sej Harman, and Robin White** for their assistance. Thanks as well to **Carole Cato** for her work with the committee and formulation of our forum policy.

A reminder about our Public Policy luncheons: If you have not done so, please consider volunteering to assist at one of our luncheons by committing to arriving a bit early to help set up and stay about 30 minutes after the conclusion of the program for cleanup. All you need to do is sign up for 1 month. Please let me or Susan James (susanbjames@sc.rr.com) know of your availability.

I told you last month about a special effort, spearheaded by **Keller Baron**, with our 65th anniversary coming up, to gather historical information about our local League to present to the Modern Political Collections at the University of South Carolina. Plans are being formulated to make this celebration part of our holiday celebration (see Calendar on page 1). Stay tuned for more information on this. It will be exciting and fun!

As always, the board and I look forward to working with you and to hearing from you as we move our League year forward!

Rita

VOTER REGISTRATION 2012 HAD HELP FROM LEAGUE MEMBERS!

The League concluded this year's voter registration efforts with more events from late August through early October. During this time 15 of our members volunteered 50 hours of their time at 15 events. We turned in 163 voter registration forms and distributed additional forms. The numbers at some schools were slim because the schools had already registered students in Government classes. The League was invited because the schools wanted to be sure everyone was given an opportunity to register.

Our efforts in the High School Voting Project from January through April resulted in 25 of our members volunteering 23 hours. We

turned in 308 registration forms. The League made valuable contacts during this project and were invited back to schools for the fall semester.

VOTER REGISTRATION



Many thanks to our dedicated members for their tireless efforts in the area of voter education. Many League members keep a supply of voter registration forms to offer to friends and neighbors. The

voter registration process concluded in time for the League to focus on candidate forums. Some League members also assisted the Election Commission during their busiest times.

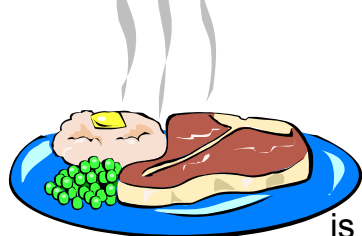
Carol Medich

OCTOBER PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON RECAP

Kudos to the persons that set up our **Richland County Council Candidate Forum** for the October Public Policy Luncheon. Although I am a Lexington County Resident, I was caught up in the topics discussed.

Because there were seven candidates and four questions for each, it is impossible for me to cover, in this article, all that was discussed. Please review the article in *The State*:

<http://www.thestate.com/2012/10/19/2486423/richland-council-candidates-address.html>.



I will take this opportunity to stress that in addition to voter registration, this is part of “the meat and potatoes” function of the League. Once a person is registered, we then educate on the issues.

The questions asked were all-encompassing and allowed many of those who attended a chance to fill in some gaps about the candidates running in their district.

As much as it is an education to voters, other candidates can use Michael Letts and Jim Manning as role models of how to behave as elected officials. The civility shown by these two GENTLEmen gives hope to all of us who want to “just get along”.

I’m hungry for the next luncheon, and not just for the food (which was very good).

Pam Craig



League Media Stars!

You, too, can be a media star!

On **October 2**, **Joanne Day** spoke at the USC Law School to students interested in the status of the Voter ID legislation and Voter Election protection.

On Sunday morning, **October 14**, **JoAnne Day** and **Lynn Teague** did a radio talk show with Roxanne Rhodes (WWNU - 92.1, The Palm, and WWNQ - 94.3, Carolina Country) on the League and Voter ID law.

On **October 23**, **Rita Paul** was a featured speaker for a Leadership Columbia Alumni Association (LCAA) Leadership Extension Luncheon, part of a series featuring Wesley Donahue and Phil Bailey of Pub Politics. LCAA is a program of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

TUNE IN: “Let’s Talk” with **Carole Cato** is a 15-minute segment on every Wednesday at 4:07 PM. It is part of “uneed2know” with Frank Knapp, a two-hour broadcast every afternoon on 1230 AM radio (WOIC). All interviews are streamed live and archived at uneed2know.info.

Frank did a segment with **Carol Medich** about voter registration, where to go, what you need, continuation of absentee voting at county registration offices, hours, and being able to register and vote on the same day (yes, this is possible with proof of residence).

Previously **Carole** covered absentee voting at local county registration offices, in-person and absentee vote-by-mail. In September **Martha Roblee** introduced Wendy Young and KIND and announced our September Public Policy meeting.

NEW INITIATIVES IN SC

iCivics is an on-line teaching tool begun by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. **Jane Brailsford**, the project director/master trainer for iCivics in South Carolina—and a new League member, shared how one full-time iCivics teacher and her students



used this 21st-century learning tool. Using their iPads with iCivics, Lexington One students planned and conducted a mock election, complete with

voter registration, as they studied the election process. Several other middle schools conducted the same iCivics or similar mock elections.

A Technology Integration Specialist created a QR code that the students used to register to vote. The codes were displayed around the school and students had until October 31 to register via their iPad. Voter Registration lists were generated from these.

iCivics students also created public service announcements urging students to vote and these PSAs were aired during lunch and could be accessed via a QR code for personal viewing.

On November 1-2, students went to the learning commons and showed their school ID, which were checked against the voter registration lists, before going into the booth to vote. Results of the vote were announced on November 5.

Visit iCivics.org and play the game, Win the White House, and take a look at all the 2012 election resources.

To renew or initiate League membership ON-LINE:

Go to www.lwvcolumbiasc.org, click on "JOIN US" in left menu, and choose your level of membership.

UPowerSC is dedicated to raising awareness about our **Public Service Commission (PSC)**, the important decisions made with regard to utility regulation, issues that relate to the economic sectors regulated by the PSC, as well as upcoming PSC elections. A number of events have been planned across the state to inform the public about the Commission's work. Follow the link below to find an event in your area.

Check out Voices for Energizing South Carolina: www.upowersc.com/issues.html.

South Carolina Coastal Conservation League publishes a Think Energy publication very much in line with LWV energy policies. Sign up at energy@scccl.org.



Election Day has come and gone and the *WORK* of democracy continues.

"It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights become a prey to the active. The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt."

John Philpot Curran, 1790

The League is at the ready to tackle the challenges in our society, examining issues in government and public policy, social policy and programs, and other areas that have an impact on our lives and those of future generations.

To paraphrase the U.S. Army:
"We are LEAGUE STRONG!"

League Memories... By *Keller H. Barron*



Long time Columbia Area League member, **Hallie Bacot Perry**, died at the age of 97 in May of this year. Her husband, Matthew J. Perry, was a highly-respected civil rights lawyer, jurist and judge and the federal courthouse in Columbia is named for him.

A graduate of South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, Hallie became a home demonstration agent, fulfilling her dream to assist families in rural areas to improve their quality of life. After marrying in 1949, she earned Bachelor of Science and Master's Degrees at Columbia University in the 1950s, and returned to SC to deliver new teaching techniques to student teachers as a Teacher Consultant. She worked at SC State College, Richland County School District One, and other school districts throughout the state. In addition to the League, she was a member of many civic and philanthropic organizations. [See Hallie Perry's full obituary in *The State*, August 24, 2012, or ask request an email copy: sejharman@att.net.]

Hallie Perry's passing brought to mind her pioneering spirit when she joined the League.

During the early 1960s, when the League of Women Voters of Columbia made an intentional effort to integrate the organization, Hallie Bacot Perry was among the first group of African-American women to join. Other women in that group are identified, as was the custom at that time,* by their husbands' names.

- **Mrs. Charles Bolden (Ethel)** was the librarian at Dreher High School and an active member in the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council. Her husband was the football coach at C. A. Johnson High School and her son is Marine General Charles Bolden, astronaut and later head of NASA.
- **Mrs. L. Palmer Chappelle (Tots)**, cosmopolitan European traveler, was the wife of a physician; the building where he had his office is still at the corner of Gervais and Harden Streets.
- **Mrs. Maxie Gordon (Ethel)** was a teacher at Benedict College (now University); her husband was also a teacher as well as a minister.
- **Mrs. Roscoe Wilson (Ethel)** was the wife of a minister who served for many years at St. John Baptist Church at Farrow Road and Beltline.

Other active members of the Columbia League at the time were:

- **Mrs. Edmund Yaghjian (Dot)**, an accomplished and well-known Columbia artist who interned with Eleanor Roosevelt, along with Joseph Lash, in New York. I was amazed that she knew all of the verses of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing"; whereas I, who grew up in Atlanta, had never even heard the song!
- **Mrs. C. Heyward Belser (Betty)**, the wife of the former state legislator who ran for Lt. Governor, chaired the House Judiciary Committee and was an escort to LWVUS President Lucy W. Benson when she addressed the SC General Assembly in 1969.
- **Mrs. Richard Allison (Susie)** was the wife of a prominent local doctor. Her tea table at afternoon meetings included finger bowls.
- **Mrs. Hyman Rubin (Rose)** was the wife of the former state senator and city councilman who served 32 years.
- **Mrs. Robert McC. Figg (Sallie)** was the wife of the former Dean of the USC Law School.
- **Miss Katherine Heyward** was a daughter of Governor Duncan Clinch Heyward (1903-1907) and a valued member of the USC Art Department.
- **Miss Mildred Hart** was a state expert on Water Resources who retired to Columbia from Case Western Reserve University.

**In fact this custom continued until the 1972 national convention in Atlanta when Gloria Steinem, who had come to encourage the LWV to join the ERA ratification fight, mocked our letterhead, saying, "You are the League of WOMEN Voters, and you use your husbands' names on your letterhead!"*



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