



LEAGUE LINES

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www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Editor Suzanne Rhodes / Co-editor Sej Harman

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Summer 2012

CALENDAR & NEWS

JUNE

25 (M) Purple Martin Cruise -Fundraiser (3 seats left) - see p. 4)

JULY

11 (W) Planning Meeting for next year at lunchtime; contact Rita if you wish to participate actively this coming year. (see NOTE, p. 2)

17 (Tu) 6 PM - Eau Claire Print Building - City Council will consider moving the City elections from April to November.

More information forthcoming OR contact **Keller Barron**.

18 (W) SC Clean Energy Summit –
details on flyer attached to email

AUGUST

7 (Tu) LWV SC Fair Judiciary Project
6 PM – USC Law Center – see p. 5

23 (Th) Member Social
details to follow via a later email

National League Convention 2012 Highlights and Takeaways...by JoAnne Day

The National League of Women Voters convention was held in Washington, DC from June 8 – 12. The South Carolina delegation was 14 strong, including Columbia members Rita Paul, Keller Barron, Janelle Rivers and JoAnne Day.

The theme of the Convention was “The Power of the Vote – Imagine, Commit, Act!” This being a Presidential election year, the emphasis on voting issues was front and center.

Voter Access

Widespread voter suppression is underway nationally, and Leagues are on the front lines fighting back. One of the highlights of the Convention was a keynote address by Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States. He spoke glowingly of the League and our work to advance the democratic process. Attorney General Holder stated:

“Since its establishment in 1920, the League of Women Voters has been on the front lines of our nation’s fight to expand the franchise, to ensure that all eligible citizens have access to the ballot box, and to uphold this country’s founding and enduring promise of “government of, by, and for the people.”

He also spoke about defending and protecting the voting rights of all citizens and mentioned South Carolina in the context of the Department of Justice litigation challenging voter id laws in our state and also in Texas. Mr. Holder reiterated the League position that voting is not a privilege but a right and emphasized the need to modernize our Voter Registration system with the ultimate goal of automatically registering citizens to vote.

(The full text of his speech to the League can be found at www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2012/ag-speech-120611.html)

Campaign Finance Reform

The role of money in politics has been a longstanding concern in our democracy. The League has been fighting to overcome the impact of the *Citizens United* decision on money in elections. On the floor of convention, League delegates voted to condemn this tragic Supreme Court decision. The League also pledged to continue the important work of bringing disclosure to the flood of money in elections by passing the DISCLOSE Act of 2012 and continuing to examine a full range of additional steps.”

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2011-2012 Board: President - Rita Paul; 1st 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. (see Officers and Directors for 2012-2013 on page 2).

The Prez Says...

Rita Paul

Welcome to our “summer” issue of *League Lines*! While it may seem we have taken a bit of a “breather” from League activities, don’t be fooled—there is much to look forward to!

We had a good crowd at our Annual Meeting in May and I thank all of you who were able to attend and be heard. Your new board is printed below—some returning members and five new members. *Look for more highlights on board members to help you get to know each better.*

Speaking of “old” board members, I hope you all had as much fun as I did “celebrating **Janie White**” on June 1st! It’s not often that someone commits as much time as Janie has—15 years—on the Columbia Area board. Janie may be off the board, but she still has lots to do! **Thank you, Janie!**

Public Policy luncheons will start back on September 20th. We anticipate having **Martha Roblee’s** sister, Wendy Young, as our September speaker to address immigration issues. Please consider bringing a friend to hear this interesting topic which rarely is printed in local news.

Please be sure to read **Carol Medich’s** wrap up of our Youth Voter Registration project (p. 4). We were successful in registering many young people who represent our future electorate. All made possible by Carol’s leadership! **Thanks, Carol** - we are so grateful to you and your committee.

South Carolina had great representation at LWV National Convention in Washington, DC [June 8-12]. As you can tell by **JoAnne Day’s** article (p. 3), it was jammed packed and exciting. It is truly an amazing experience and I hope many of you will have an opportunity to attend a national meeting in the future.

If you have not returned your survey regarding *League Lines* to **Sej Harman** [sejharman@att.net – or for another copy to complete], please do so right away. We absolutely need your input regarding how you use our newsletter and what recommendations you have for improving our communications. We need your guidance; please provide it by giving us recommendations on what you would like to see and how our communications might work better for you.

Looking forward to seeing and hearing from you as we move into another exciting League Year!

Rita

Editor’s note: Rita is planning a lunch to enable old/new Board members and potential leaders to get to know each other and conduct a bit of business. Think about filling out our calendar for the year and supporting our committees (Communications, Program, Voter Services, Finance/Budget, Public Policy Lunches, and other programs, local government(s) monitoring). Let us hear from YOU! ritapaul@hotmail.com

Continuing Officers/Directors (2012-2013)

		Term Ends
President	Rita Paul	2013
1 st Vice President	JoAnne Day	2013
Director	Pat Forbis	2013
Director	Sarah Leverette	2013

Nominating Committee (2012-13): Pam Craig, Chair, Carolyn Hudson, Jan Urban, Janie White

Newly-Elected Officers/Directors (2012-2014)

		Term Ends
2 nd Vice President	Sally Huguley	2014
Treasurer	Pat Davy	2014
Secretary	Martha Roblee	2014
Director	Sej Harman	2014
Director	Marilyn “Marzi” Knight	2014
Director	Lynn Teague	2014

Nominating Committee (2013-14): To be announced

Continued from page 1

Other Convention speakers, including Trevor Potter, President of the Campaign Legal Center, Former Congressman Mickey Edwards (R-OK) and Political Reporter Eleanor Clift, urged the League to look closely at the steps needed to fix the broken campaign finance system and to press forward using our community-based power on behalf of all voters and for elections that are determined by the voters.

In her acceptance speech for another term, the League's re-elected president Elisabeth MacNamara challenged delegates: "The League is not an end in itself. We are a training ground for democracy. That is what we have always been and that is what we will always be, working together to learn new ways to spread the word and encourage new generations to learn and engage."

the League was not known to many respondents. Leagues across the country need to raise our profile in our communities and this election season will provide multiple opportunities.

See 2012-14 **LWVUS** Officers and Directors under "Announcements" on page 5 of this issue.

Visibility

The League needs to be seen and heard!

Raising the visibility of the League and the Importance of messaging in every League activity was spearheaded by a new Membership and Leadership initiative. The delegates in attendance contributed over \$30,000 to fund this new effort. Focus group respondents who had heard of the League had great respect for the League of Women Voters. The surprise was that

League Remembers.....

Alice Karesh was born November 17, 1907, in Missouri. She received a degree in education and was widowed in 1942. She married Coleman Karesh of Columbia on December 25, 1949. She was a member of various local organizations before moving to Florida in 1996.

Sarah Leverette: I remember Alice as the most gracious lady I have ever known. Her husband Coleman Karesh taught me in Law School. He was one of the most brilliant, respected, and beloved professors at the Law School over a period of 25 years. They both were deeply loved, respected and revered by students and faculty alike. In their home on Amherst Avenue, they reared four lovely children, each with the gracious manner and spirit inherited from Alice and Coleman, and whom I enjoyed meeting recently at a post-funeral gathering at the Coleman Karesh Law Library at the USC Law School.

Dorothy Jones McMurray, always known as "Dida," was born on October 13, 1918, in Manila, Philippine Territory. Alerted to the likelihood of war with Japan, Dida moved back to New Jersey and worked in New York City as executive assistant to renowned industrial designer Raymond Loewy. On June 12, 1943, Dida married David John (Jack) McMurray, her high school classmate. Always active in her family, she was also prominent in the LWV and strongly supported the environmental movement. A visionary and enthusiast about SC, in the 1960s she established the Carolina Potpourri shop, which exclusively featured the work of SC artists.

Suzanne Rhodes: I remember Dida as a leader in Environmentalist, Inc., although we were both active with the League at different times. Dida was always a passionate environmentalist, and was one of the few strong supporters of the effort to close down the experimental Allied General Nuclear Services nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the Aiken area. She enjoyed her weekend "House that Jack Built" which her physician husband built on Lake Murray, as well as her full time lake home in the Chapin area, where she moved later in life. She was a happy homemaker for her five children, subsequently larger family, and participated widely in the community. She is one of the few folks I've known who were strong Republicans who became a Democrat later in life. Always thoughtful, always reading widely, always sharing interesting tidbits others had missed, Dida was a great friend and strategic partner to many in the community.

Keller Barron: I am proud to be a member of an organization that attracts women of the caliber of Dida Murray and Alice Karesh. Their stories typify members of the Columbia League during the formative years. We owe our reputation as a respected historical organization working for "good government" and informed citizen participation to many dedicated women such as Dida and Alice.



The League offers condolences to

...Hayes Mizell on the recent death of his grandson, Marley Lion

...Pam Craig and Horace Holloman on the death of Pam's brother.



VOTER SERVICE

YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT

The Youth Voter Registration Project has been completed. The Columbia League made 10 site visits and registered 266 students with the assistance of 25 League members. We discovered that many of the local high schools had conducted their own voter registration projects through government classes. Richland One School District conducted registration in all of their high schools; we were able to participate with them as they did their final school—A. C. Flora.

We plan to use the contacts made at these schools to conduct further registration as soon as school begins in August. In the past, some schools throughout the area have invited the League to have a voter registration table at their “Back to School Night” or their first PTA meeting.

A big thanks to all League members who participated in this project. Hopefully, we can count on you for continued participation in our summer/fall activities.

Carol Medich

PURPLE MARTIN SUNSET CRUISE AND FUNDRAISER

Monday, June 25th. We will leave from the dock at Ballentine (about 30 minutes from USC) at 6:30. We will wander toward “Lunch Island” (also known as Doolittle or Bomber Island); have dinner on the way while we view the new mansions and incoming Purple Martins, with the goal of returning to Ballentine by 10:00. Three seats left @\$45—Make check out to LWV Columbia Area EF.

Contact Suzanne for more information or to make a reservation. [Suzrhodes at Juno.com](mailto:Suzrhodes@Juno.com)

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.



League Media Stars!

You, too, can be a media star!

Martha Roblee and *Keller Barron* spoke at Richland County council on Tuesday, June 19, in support of getting the penny tax on the ballot. The League has no formal position on the tax itself, but *is* in support of putting it out to the voters.

Lynn Teague spoke on voting and election issues to **V.O.T.E.** in Columbia, Saturday, June 23 at 3 PM.

Speakers Bureau

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



There’s still time to put your name in the **HAT** to be a speaker on behalf of the League!

Become a “go to” person on an issue you’re passionate about. The League is about **quality of life**, which is tied to many issues at local, state, and national levels, and League leaders and experts provide training /support, talking points, AND encouragement!

Contact *JoAnne Day*- [jvday at yahoo.com](mailto:jvday@yahoo.com) - to volunteer **TODAY** or respond with an enthusiastic **YES** when you are called upon!

Still need members to “adopt” a group to mail hard copies of League Lines.

Speak up and “put your money where *our* mouth is.” The number of copies to be mailed each month (for 9 or 10 issues), beginning with August 2012, 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) — ADOPTED —	.44
Columbia City Council (6) — ADOPTED —	2.64
Total postage for one monthly mailing:	\$11.88

Senate and House members for Richland and Lexington counties are also “adoptable.”

If you’d be interested in underwriting the postage for mailing just *one edition* or each issue for the year, let me know and I’ll schedule you for a mailing. We’ll bill you or you may pay in advance.

Sej Harman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

● 2012-14 LWVUS Officers/Directors and Nominating Committee (from Carolina leagues)

Convention delegates unanimously approved the following for 2012-14: Elisabeth MacNamara, president; Janis McMillen, 1st vice president; Mary Klenz (NC), 2nd vice president; and Patricia Donath, secretary/treasurer. Directors: Peggy Appler (SC), Carolyn Brown, Toni Larson, Karen Nicholson, Anne Schink, Norman Turrill, Linda Wassenich and Susan Wilson. Nominating Committee: Linda Duckworth, chair; Mary Santi and Penney Van Vleet.

● New LWVUS Position on Sentencing Policy

Convention 2012 delegates adopted a new position by concurrence with the Sentencing Policy position of the LWV District of Columbia. Sentencing Policy Position: *The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.*

Sharon Fratepietro of Charleston and the Charleston League provided leadership, and Columbia League provided support on this position.

● “Bad Romance: Women’s Suffrage” Video

Convention delegates loved **this video, “Bad Romance: Women’s Suffrage.”** Please note that this is *not* a League video, and although it is a Lady Gaga song, it is not Lady Gaga performing. Click on link or cut and paste into your browser.

<http://www.soomopublishing.com/suffrage/>

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

August 7, 2012

The State of the Judiciary in South Carolina: From Research to Reality

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina cordially invites you to the closing of our two-year project on the importance of independence and diversity in the state judicial system with a public forum entitled "The State of the Judiciary in South Carolina: From Research to Reality" to be held on **Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at the University of South Carolina School of Law Auditorium in downtown Columbia (corner of S. Main and Greene Streets)**. The 6 p.m. Reception will be followed at 7 p.m. by the Program. South Carolina Women Lawyers Association is a co-sponsor of the event.

Confirmed panelists include Senator Larry A. Martin (R-Pickens County, Dist. 2), Judiciary Committee Chair and Judicial Merit Selection Commission Vice Chair; Senator Floyd Nicholson (D-Abbeville, Greenwood & Laurens Counties, Dist. 10), Judicial Merit Selection Commission Member; Judge Carolyn C. Matthews, President, S.C. Women Lawyers Assoc.; Dean Robert M. Wilcox, University of South Carolina School of Law; Alice Paylor, President-Elect, South Carolina Bar; and John Simpkins, Assistant Professor and Director of Diversity Initiatives, Charleston School of Law. The forum will be moderated by Constance Anastopoulo, Associate Professor, Charleston School of Law.

At the August 7th Forum, the League and invited guests will review the results of our statewide education initiative, which began with our October 2010 conference in Charleston. The League expects to unveil partial research results on the current state of the South Carolina judicial system's independence and diversity. Panelists will share their views on issues related to judicial diversity and independence.

The Reception and Program are **free and open to the public**. Free two-hour CLE credits for South Carolina attorneys have been requested. Please **RSVP by August 3 to Angel Warren:**

angelwarren@msn.com