

# League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## LEAGUE LINES

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## Mark Your Calendar

### » UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 12, Monday, 5:30 pm** (and most subsequent first Mondays) - Board Meeting at Jason's Deli. Any League member may attend, but if you wish to speak, discuss your interest with Laura about a week prior to be on the agenda.

**August 15, Thursday, 6 – 9 pm** - Annual Fall Kick-off Social. See details page [4](#)

**August 20, Tuesday, 7:30 pm** - Join us for "Women's History Trivia Night." see details page [8](#)

**August 25, Sunday**, - WREN community conversation. This event to be held at The Robert Mills House will summarize and discuss the results of the WREN series of community conversations on women's rights and empowerment in South Carolina.

**August 26, Monday**, - 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. City of Columbia Mayor Steven Benjamin will hold a press conference at 10 am to announce "Women's Equality Day" and a project called "She Did." The intent is to highlight the anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the untold stories of key women who were leaders and creators in Columbia ("She did this..."). The celebration is in partnership with the Historic Columbia Foundation (HCF). League foremothers were instrumental in achieving the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Plans are in development to include the League in this event. One idea is for League members to attend the press conference and wear suffrage era outfits. More later.

**September 19, Thursday, 11:30 – 1 pm** - Public Policy Luncheon: "Think Globally, Act Locally. See details ->

**September 21, Saturday** - Jubilee Festival of the Historic Columbia Foundation (HCF). The League will have a table and register voters.



## PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON Thursday, September 19, 2019



### "Think Globally, Act Locally"



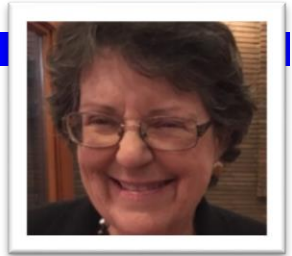
Our speaker will be Keller Barron, the LWV/US delegate to the UN Commission on Women. Lourie Center

**All League members are welcome. RESERVATIONS for a catered lunch are required no later than Wednesday noon, September 18. Cost of lunch: \$10.00 (attendees may bring a lunch). Please RSVP to Susan James: [sc.susanbjames@gmail.com](mailto:sc.susanbjames@gmail.com) or call 256-6822**



### WHAT'S NEW INSIDE THIS MONTH?

Article	Page
President's Letter	<a href="#">2</a>
August Social	<a href="#">4</a>
Introducing New Board Members	<a href="#">5</a>
Observer Corps Report	<a href="#">6</a>
Womens History Trivia Night	<a href="#">8</a>
Board Contact Information	<a href="#">9</a>
Quick Links	<a href="#">10</a>

*LAURA WOLIVER, PRESIDENT of LWV/Columbia Area*

People who participate as members and volunteers in groups like the League of Women Voters maintain an ethic of communal and social progress mixed with collective obligations, even during highly negative and pessimistic eras.

Group activism is not perfect, yet even when imperfect, the impetus is usually toward expansion of democratic (with a small “d”) values and social progress. In the 1960’s, Ella Baker called these efforts “the spade work” for civil rights. These tillers of change, over time, make their marks. Sometimes people’s spade work and small pushes become a landslide.

Backlash comes with the territory.

The 2019 Women’s World Cup Soccer Tournament displayed many of these points. When Title IX was passed in 1972, the opposition and backlash included emphatic predictions that expanding educational opportunities to girls and women would ruin educational institutions and sports. The tricks of “either/or” and “zero/sum” thinking were marshalled to predict the demise of the existing (male) sports world and the pitiful specter of girls and women mimicking male athletes and coaches.

Instead, sports became stronger and more woven into our social and communal fabric. The growth happened in large part because of the expansion of opportunities and increased diversity.

Equality for girls and women in education has historically been a bulwark of reformers and human rights advocates. Before and along with the American Revolution, the Seneca Falls Convention (1848), the end of the Civil War (1865), and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment ratification (1920), people – especially brave women – advocated for access to education for girls and women. Often, and this should not be hidden or overlooked, racial inequalities were maintained and justified by many women’s education and suffrage advocates. Ideas, however, are powerful and have a life of their own.

The enthusiasm for women’s soccer this summer during the World Cup, the support of diverse fans, the forthright dignity of athletes and coaches in the face of ad hominem attacks, and the strength of the teams whether they won or lost games, is a testament to the effervescence of ideas related to access, democracy, and diversity. For many observers of these games, a poignant victory was when the spectators for the United

States Women's Soccer team's contests combined their voices to shout "Equal Pay! Equal Pay!" Ideas, like elections, have consequences.

The League of Women Voters, like the males and females who coached girls and women without any pay before Title IX, plays the long game. In this light, the LWV/CA continues to steadily help register and inform voters, observe public meetings, monitor issues and legislation, litigate when necessary, and keep the faith. Many thanks to all the LWV/CA activists for defending democracy through these and many other diligent efforts. It will be humbling, inspirational, and fun this coming year to celebrate League victories on and off the field. A big step is the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in August of 2020.

As many members of the League know, in these struggles we need each other. Please, therefore, make it a point to:

- Come to our Fall Kick Off Social on August 15<sup>th</sup> See details on page 4
- Attend our September 19<sup>th</sup> Public Policy Luncheon with speaker Keller Barron
- Renew your LWV/CA membership
- Volunteer to help with our various efforts

Details on the Fall Social, the September 19<sup>th</sup> Public Policy Luncheon, and volunteering are within this issue of *League Lines*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any Board and off-Board officials listed at the end of this publication.

***Best wishes, Laura R. Woliver***

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[BACK TO TOP](#)



*League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area*

*August Social*

*Thursday, August 15*

*6 PM (set-up at 5:30 pm)*

*Woodhill Estates Clubhouse*

*Bring your favorite appetizer or finger food!*

*Beverages provided*

**Directions:**

1. **FROM TOWN:** Go out Garner's Ferry Road to just passed Woodhill Mall (on right). Turn right onto Pelham Dr. (between Verizon and BB&T) The follow Step 2 (below)

**FROM I-77:** Take Exit 9 toward Columbia, then go to Garner's Ferry Rd. to Woodhill Mall (on left). Turn left onto Pelham Drive. Then follow Step 2 (below)

2. **Continue on Pelham** for about a mile and look for a sign on the right for Woodhill Estate/High Hampton. Turn right on Arborwood Rd. and go to the Stop sign. Then take a slight left. The driveway for the clubhouse is on the right. The clubhouse is a pale yellow 2-story colonial house. You may park in the lot on the left or in front of the house.

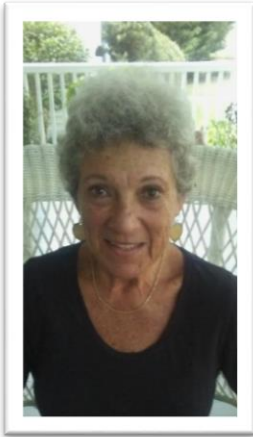


*Guests are Welcome!*





## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



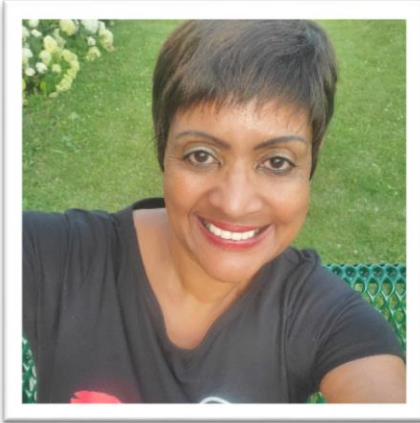
**Sally Boyd** is retired from USC where she earned a PhD in American literature and was a faculty member and administrator. In her final position as head of Extended University, she and her co-workers had responsibility for Adult Student Services, and the Evening, Weekend, and Fort Jackson programs. She also worked with Academic Affairs on the regional campuses and taught in the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Over the course of her career, her strong interest in improving the lives and status of women led to her being president of Professional Women on Campus, the Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues, and the boards of SC Women in Higher Education and Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands.

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**Elizabeth Jones** is a retired public secondary school English teacher who taught in various SC and NC schools, served as a director of education for Sylvan Learning Centers in Columbia, and as a professional copy editor for a publishing company. She earned her B.A. from Winthrop University and M.Ed. from USC Columbia. Elizabeth is a social justice advocate who now dedicates her time to the LWV, ACLU, NAACP, AAUW, WREN, NOW, Planned Parenthood, and Moms Demand Action Against Gun Violence. She has registered voters at many of these venues. A native of Union, SC, she moved to Columbia in 1970. She has a daughter, Catherine, who is a Licensed MSW in Spartanburg, SC. Elizabeth, aka Sparkle, lives with her husband, Philip, and their Welsh Pembroke Corgi, Buttons, in Columbia.

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**Charmaine Clowney** is a retired attorney and Columbia, SC, native. She is currently president of Clowney Human Resources Consulting Group. Charmaine has served in various Equal Employment Opportunity/Diversity Vice President positions at several universities, including The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Prior to her retirement, Charmaine served as Assistant District Director at the U.S. Department of Labor's Wisconsin Regional Office. Charmaine is

an avid supporter of the arts. Her hobbies include enjoying jazz, classical music, and theater. Charmaine also enjoys visiting and spoiling her two grandsons who reside in Oak Park, Illinois.

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[BACK TO TOP](#)



**OBSERVER CORPS APRIL 2019 SUBMISSION BY L. J. COLE February 24, 2019**

**3/18/19 Lexington/Richland 5 School Board**

**Observer: Susan Mathis**

The meeting began by spotlighting Chapin Middle School and the \$24,000 collected for The United Way. The Office of Instruction discussed the school Choice #2 which includes magnet schools, choice programs, and Montessori programs. #LeaD5 and professional development for teachers was also discussed.

Public participation included issues on behavioral conflicts and purchases for new schools and land. Action on the following three agenda items were approved. Action as necessary/appropriate on Executive Session items; new board policy for resource officers; and 2018-2019 make-up days.

The discussion agenda included raising new teachers' salaries to \$35,000 and giving a 4% raise to all other teachers. Health insurance will increase, and there will be a 1% increase to the amount on retirement contributions made by teachers.

**3/26/19 Richland County Council**

**Observer: L.J. Cole**

**Administration & Finance:** The committee meeting was chaired by the Honorable Joyce Dickerson. The Honorable Yvonne McBride expressed her concerns during a discussion of the hiring of staff for the new administrator. She felt that the new administrator should be allowed to select some of his/her own staffing, while the interim administrator wants

people in place prior to the start date for the new administrator. This includes his/her assistant administrator.

The Honorable Allison Terracio spoke to the need to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment. She mentioned that documented support from the counties would empower the Senate to ratify the bill. Her proposal will be an "action item" at the next committee meeting.

#### **4/2/19 Richland County Council**

**Observer: Dale Baer**

Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting the ERA. Most interest and citizen input centered around neighborhood eyesores such as abandoned cars, blight, and commercial trucks in small yards. Over the years, neighborhoods without homeowners' associations have been asking for help from council to remedy this problem. Council members pledged to work on the problems in committee for Council's consideration at the next meeting.

#### **4/16/19 Richland County Council**

**Observer: Dale Baer**

Acting County Administrator Thompson presented an actionable item in his report, asking permission from Council for an aviation organization to host an overnight stay at the airport. Actionable items are to be presented to Council under strict rules and Councilmen Manning and Malinowski took issue with breaking those rules. The planned event occurs too soon to allow for the item to be presented correctly and subsequently cannot take place as planned. Council did not waive its rules to vote on this matter. It must take the time to go through proper procedures.

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### **VOTE 411: "Come on Along..." VOTE411 Visits Municipal Council**

#### **Meetings**

The VOTE411 Committee invites League members to accompany them to see "Local Government in Action." In August, we will visit the 12 municipalities in Richland and Lexington Counties which are having elections in November.

VOTE411 will cover the elections in Batesburg-Leesville, Chapin, Irmo, Pelion, Pine Ridge, Springdale, Summit, Swansea, West Columbia, Arcadia Lakes, Blythewood, and Columbia.

The purpose of the visits is to introduce the Councils to the League and the 2019 VOTE411 Voters Guide and to solicit their support.

"Come on Along...", please contact Keller Barron, [kellerhb@att.net](mailto:kellerhb@att.net).

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THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

**FRIENDS OF THE LEAGUE - *Women's History Trivia Night* - You're Invited!**

On Tuesday, August 20, 7:30 p.m., join us for "Women's History Trivia Night" at 701 CCA, presented in conjunction with the current exhibition, *Persistence*.

The exhibition presents over fifty commemorative medals by artist Mana Hewitt. The series is in recognition of the courage and perseverance of women who have challenged societal perceptions and worked to improve conditions for all. Each medal characterizes an important female, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Helen Keller, Sonia Sotomayer, Amelia Earhart, Sojourner Truth, Frida Kahlo, and more.

This will be a ticketed event, but we are extending a personal invitation to you to participate as a team for this fun night of trivia! **There is no fee to participate, but it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We are looking for teams of 4 people, and we only have space for 6 teams!**

Would you like to participate? Register with me at [director@701cca.org](mailto:director@701cca.org) or reach me at 803-319-9949. *Put your knowledge of women's history to the test!*

**Hannah Shepard, Director, 701 Center for Contemporary Art, 701 Whaley St., 2nd floor**

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**MEMBER CORNER**

**Chester Sansbury submitted to Irmo News:** It is a joy to live along the South Carolina coast, especially in and around Charleston. .... The economic risks to society are enormous, which is why transforming our energy system should be a priority for all elected officials. ... Plastic debris and trash are visible problems, but there's a more pressing threat to the ocean—and Charleston.... Sea level rise alone endangers \$149 billion worth of coastal property in SC and threatens Charleston docks and piers, which handle 727,000 tons of cargo worth \$46 billion.... Even a handful of conservatives, including Congressman Joe Wilson, facing the problem head on and working constructively towards smarter solutions such as continued increase in solar energy technology and the millions of jobs it is creating, will have a big impact.

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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:**

[@LWVColumbiaSC](https://twitter.com/LWVColumbiaSC)

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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)

