



LEAGUE LINES

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Summer 2017



Calendar

August

Thurs., 24: 6 PM: Summer Members and Friends Social - at Woodhill Estate Clubhouse. See the Announcement on [page 4](#) for details and directions. Guests and prospective members are invited. Thanks to Renee Graham for making the arrangements. Setup will begin at 5:30. **More cleanup help is needed.**

September

Sat., 12: AAUW on STEM for high school females, USC CDRC Building. More later

Thurs. 21 – 11:45 AM: September Public Policy Luncheon. See page 3 for details.

Tues., 26: National Voter Registration Day.

November

Tues., 17: Local elections 11/7/2017



ALSO INSIDE:

Article	Page
View from River's Edge	2
Public Policy Luncheon	3
Annual Meeting Recap	4
Board Looking Forward	8
New Members Corner	16
Public Education Update	12
Climate Change Update	10
Financing The League	12
Observer Corps Reports	13

REMEMBERING SEJ HARMAN



Sej was one of the first people I met when I moved to Columbia in 1990. She was passing out literature for the newly-formed Funeral Consumers Alliance and cracking jokes about the subject matter with each person she met. We later served together on the board of that organization, and I saw that she was not only cheerfully irreverent but dependable and

very bright. Her suggestions were helpful, and she was productive. Years later I ran onto Sej again--happily!--when I joined the League. All would agree that she has been a valued and necessary part of keeping the League running, and I was touched by what Julie Sellers said as she notified us of Sej's death: Sej was one who held us all together.

So true. She was full of information, ideas, and ability. She was open to others' opinions. She took notes at every lunch meeting and quite often followed up with speakers afterward. Sej was not apathetic. She was, as Chester Sansbury said, "of outstanding character and an exceptional citizen."

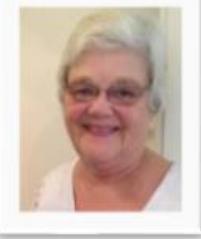
Sej and I went out for cheap dinners several times a year and stayed long enough to solve most of the world's problems. She was always fun and full of silly, good humor. She loved puns. And she loved and was very involved with her big loving family.

At the memorial service for Sej, her minister said that Sej "was a champion for the disadvantaged and forgotten" and that "you could count on her." A new League member behind me said that Sej had "a wonderful spirit" and another said that she was "well-loved and will be dearly missed." All so very true.

Susan James

FROM THE RIVER'S EDGE*Janelle Rivers*

Grief and gratitude were mixed for League members who gathered with a crowd of family and friends to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Sej Harmon on a bright Sunday afternoon early in June. Those who knew Sej will miss her cheerful presence, and all League members will miss the many ways she promoted and supported the work of the League. Sej loved the League and drew many of our members into the organization. We're grateful for all that she did for us and for the community.



This issue of League Lines is intentionally more streamlined. People's lives and schedules are loaded with obligations and activities, so we hope that streamlining our communications will encourage readers to look through the entire issue. The League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area (LWV-Columbia) will be following the lead of LWVUS in making some changes to become a more nimble, responsive organization. The national League is doing a good job of posting current information about national issues on its web site, so make it a point to go to www.lwv.org regularly, and be sure that you've signed up on the front page of the national web site to receive email alerts and news from the national League.

The priorities established at the January planning meeting for LWV-Columbia are (1) Observer Corps, (2) Getting out the vote, including primary elections, (3) Training, and (4) Responding to advocacy alerts from the state and national levels.

The Observer Corps is moving along under the leadership of Rana Davis and Pat Mohr. We've already received feedback that the Observer Corps has led to better procedures in some local government groups, and we have found some controversial issues that are still unresolved. Thanks to all who have been observing and reporting in League Lines. Observing some local government meetings and preparing a very brief report is a great way for new members to become involved, and it can be a very interesting activity. Right now we need volunteers to attend some of the meetings of the Richland County Recreation Commission, which has been mired in controversy in recent months. It's not necessary to commit to attending every meeting of a government group. We have found that if a League member attends with some regularity, board members begin to appreciate the presence of League members, and staff members pay more attention to the procedures that are designed for public accountability. It's good to let our elected and appointed representatives know that someone is paying attention to what they do.

We ended the year with a flurry of activities. The LWV-Columbia was well represented at the joint conference on public corruption, sponsored by LWVSC and the Progressive Network. We had good participation in our new member meetings in April, May, and June, and our members enjoyed a delightful evening at our Annual Meeting in May, hosted by Pat Forbis and Joel Duncan.

The new board appointed Phyllis Jones as a new director in a dual role with LWVSC to pilot a training and development program that includes an emphasis on redistricting. Marianne McGrath did the greater part of the work of putting together a booklet to summarize what League membership means. It will be especially helpful for new members, and I expect long-time League members will find it valuable, too.

So, as we end the 2016-17 year and look forward to the future, we send a big thank you to Julie Sellers, past president, and to all who have worked so diligently to produce the results that we've already seen. Welcome to our new members, and to all, take inventory of your time and energy and volunteer for something within the League's priorities that is meaningful to you.

Janelle Rivers

[BACK TO TOP](#)



VC SUMMER – WHAT'S NEXT?

Thursday September 21, 2017 – 11:45 AM

LOURIE CENTER – PARK CIRCLE (AT PICKENS & BLOSSOM STREETS)



HOW DID THIS HAPPEN AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The meltdown of the VC Summer nuclear plant has come to a head. What did we know and when did we know it? Come to the LWV Columbia September public policy luncheon and get the facts about this rapidly evolving situation. Headlines change daily on this subject. Two people who have followed this issue closely and know the facts will add context and clarity to this debacle.

Lynn Teague, LWVSC advocacy chair and state League lobbyist, has been working with legislators on amending the Base Load Review Act for almost two years. Lynn serves on the Integrated Resource Plan Committee coordinated by the SC Office of Regulatory Staff and expects to be an intervener in resolving the VC Summer situation.

Ron Aiken is a Columbia native and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists and the S.C. Press Association, and he has won more than 20 state, regional and national journalism awards. An 18-year journalism veteran, his work was featured in a book showcasing the year's best technology writing, appeared in newspapers and websites across the country, and was published in the 2015 book "State of the Heart, Vol. 2: South Carolina Writers and the Places They Love" by the University of South Carolina Press. Ron also publishes "Quorum", an independent investigative journalism project that focuses on issues in the Midlands. His recent article on the VC Summer debacle can be viewed at <http://quoruncolumbia.org/2017/08/02/workers-gross-mismanagement-massive-waste-gravy-train-culture-doomed-nuclear-project/>

Other interested groups will be invited to meet with us for the September public policy luncheon at 11:45 on September 21 at the Lourie Center, so League members who want to order a \$10 catered lunch should make their reservations as early as possible. Please RSVP to Susan James: sc.susanbjames@gmail.com or call 256-6822, but no later than Tuesday, September 19. As always, members may choose to bring their own lunches or may come just to hear the program.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

**OTHER NEWS*****League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area******August Social***

When? Thursday, August 24 at 6 PM
(Set-up at 5:30)

Where? Woodhill Estates Clubhouse

 Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert!



Beverages provided

Guests Are Invited***Directions:***

FROM TOWN: Go out Garner's Ferry Road to just past Woodhill Mall (on right).

FROM I-77: Take Exit 9 toward Columbia, then go to Garner's Ferry Road to Woodhill Mall (on left). TURN onto Pelham Drive (between Eric's San Hosea restaurant and Bed, Bath & Beyond). Go to Arborwood (on right) - follow signs to Clubhouse.

NOTE: If you search for Woodhill Estates Clubhouse, you will be taken to a place nearby rather than this location. It will be close but not familiar to those who are not familiar with the area.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area held their Annual Meeting on May 18, 2017, at the home of Pat Forbis and Dr. Joel Duncan. Following the social gathering where everyone brought food and wine to share, the business meeting was called to order by outgoing President, Julie Sellers. Treasurer Ann Maletic reported total assets of \$12,560.54. Janie White reported that we currently have 135 members. Janie further reported that our by-laws have been

changed to accord with national as required. Voting League members can now join at age 16 instead of the previously required age 18.

Outgoing president, **Julie Sellers**, recapped successes of her past two years as president.

Marianne McGrath, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Proposed Slate for 2017-2018 which were all duly elected as follows:

- President, Janelle Rivers (2017-2019)
- 1st Vice President, Laura Woliver (2017-2019)
- Secretary, Sharon Ayling (2017-2019)
- Director, JoAnne Day (2017-2019)
- Director, Janie White (2017-2019)

Continuing Board Members 2016-2018

- Treasurer, Ann Maletic
- Director, Missy Caughman
- Director, Margaret Anne DuBose
- Director, Mel Jenkins
- Director, Pat Mohr

Sharon Ayling presented a plaque to outgoing president, Julie Sellers, from her board members. The plaque was given in appreciation for Julie's two years of service as LWV-Columbia president and for her efforts towards "Making Democracy Work for All."

Looking to the Future 2017-2018: Janelle Rivers, incoming LWV-Columbia president, said the League needs to be more nimble and responsive by using social media more

Extensively to reach the public. Janelle reiterated League priorities for national, state and our local League as follows:

- LWVUS Priorities: Voter Protection, education and engagement, money in politics, and protecting the environment.
- LWVSC Priorities: Voter Access and the election process; redistricting, and ethics reform, including the elimination of dark money; regulatory reform; education; health care; and natural resources, including climate change, recycling, regulation/deregulation.
- LWV-Columbia Priorities: Expand the Observer Corps; get out the vote, and training for members and the public; emphasizing responsiveness to state and national alerts.
- Janelle asked members to go to the national website and sign-up in the blue box in the upper right corner to receive important alerts and action information. Check the state Facebook page (League of Women Voters of South Carolina) often for updates.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:30, and the social hour resumed to the enjoyment of all.

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WATCH FOR ALERTS FROM STATE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES: Updates in the status of health care bills and voter suppression activities at the national level have been frequent in the last month. Be sure you've signed up in the blue box at the upper right of the main page of the LWVUS web site (www.lwv.org) so that you'll receive email updates. Also, be sure to check the Facebook page for the League of Women Voters of South Carolina frequently. Alerts are calls for members of the League of Women Voters to contact their legislators to advocate individually for the positions they want legislators to adopt. Only certain designated officers at each level speak in the name of the League.

In responding to alerts, all League members are urged to respond as individuals by contacting their legislators. You can read or download the Advocacy 101 manual on the L WVSC web site at <http://lwvsc.org/files/2017.Advocacy101.pdf>. This little pamphlet is an excellent resource to explain how members can advocate effectively with legislators.

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LWVCA MEMBERS ATTEND NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

In Columbia on July 24, 2017, forty-one people were sworn in as new U.S. citizens and six members of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area were there to congratulate them and offer voter registration assistance. Participating for the League were Margaret Anne DuBose, Janie White, Robin White, Sharon Ayling, Keller Barron, and Janelle Rivers.

Federal Judge Joe Anderson delivered the naturalization oath to the new Americans during a lunch meeting of the Columbia Rotary Club at Seawell's on Rosewood Avenue in Columbia.

To quote John Monk's article in The State, "'I've been doing this for 31 years, and I get a lump in my throat every single time,' Anderson said, opening the 25-minute ceremony before Rotarians, the soon-to-be citizens and their relatives and volunteers from the League of Women Voters, who attend each ceremony."

The new citizens came from at least 19 countries, including Ukraine, Canada, Egypt, Vietnam, Brazil, Taiwan, India, Cambodia, Mexico, Ireland, Pakistan, El Salvador, Bulgaria, Colombia, Belarus, China, the Dominican Republic, and Turkey.

To become citizens, they had to pass a test about American history and the Constitution and be able to speak, read, and write English. The citizenship oath requires them to renounce all allegiance to their prior nation, to support and defend the Constitution, and to pledge to bear arms or provide non-combat service on behalf of the United States, if required by law. As Judge Anderson told the new citizens, "With every right there are corresponding duties and responsibilities."

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Margaret Ann DuBose, Janelle Rivers, Robin and Janie White explain voter registration to new citizens



Janelle Rivers helps register a new citizen



Robin White helps a new citizen

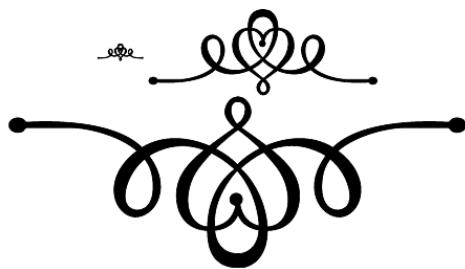


Margaret Ann DuBose helps register a new Citizen



Margaret Ann DuBose passes out voter information

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BOARD LOOKING FORWARD:
Share Your Talents with LWV-Columbia!



One of the best things about the League is that we appreciate members at any level of involvement. Some become active almost as soon as they join the League, while others may only pay dues, later increasing participation as their schedules permit. The board has identified a number of needs and opportunities for the 2017-18 year.

Please consider picking one or more activities on this list to add to your schedule. Send an email to the board member who is listed as the contact below, or to Janelle Rivers: rivers12@bellsouth.net



Observer Corps: Observe one or more meetings of the government group of your choice. We especially need observers for the Richland County Recreation Commission, which usually holds meetings on the third Monday at 6:00, but has had several called meetings recently because of controversial issues. We'd also like to hear more about what's happening with Lexington County government groups. Contact: Rana Davis (rana.davis@hotmail.com) and Pat Mohr (patmohr@mindspring.com)



Hospitality Committee: We need people to help with meetings and social events. That might include setting up, bringing beverages, bringing paper goods, or helping with clean up. You can do this just once, or volunteer to head one event, or chair a committee of volunteers to manage this on a regular basis. If you're able to help a little or a lot, contact Janie White (jbwhite64@gmail.com).

[BACK TO TOP](#)



Telephone Calling Tree: Be one of a group who spreads the word by calling a list of six to ten members to inform them about upcoming events. We'll provide you a script with all the details. This is a way to help without leaving home. Contact Janie White (jbwhite64@gmail.com).



Proofreaders and Writers: We need expert proofreaders for everything we publish from the newsletter to booklets, flyers, and public information documents. We also need writers for announcements, news articles, and other publicity. If you have writing and proofreading skills and are willing to help occasionally or often, contact Suzanne Rhodes (suzrhodes@juno.com).



Public Relations: We need to publicize meetings, candidate forums, and other events where members of the public are invited. If you'd like to help with media notices and publicity, contact Mel Jenkins (citycivics@earthlink.net).



Lexington County Liaisons: We need people to help us maintain contacts and gather information in Lexington County. It would help to have someone who could report on government related issues and events, whether by attending meetings as an observer or just gathering information at your convenience. You could do as little as attend a meeting or two for the Observer Corps (see note above). If you're willing to do more, we'd love to have a volunteer to be Missy Caughman's counterpart in helping us keep up with Lexington County's government issues on a regular basis. There's also the option of convening a small group in the Lexington area to meet occasionally and follow a specific issue of Lexington interest. Contact: Missy Caughman (mpcaughman@earthlink.net) or Janelle Rivers (rivers12@bellsouth.net).



Voter Education Materials: The League has traditionally produced voter guides, which compare the positions of various candidates in an election or a primary, and other materials to help inform the voting public on current topics of interest. These may be related to the League's mission, to one of the League's policy positions, or the *Directory of Elected Officials*. If you're willing to help, contact: Janelle Rivers (rivers12@bellsouth.net).



Voter Participation: One of LWV-Columbia's priorities for 2017-18 is getting out the vote, including encouraging people to vote in primary elections. This includes encouraging, and

registering voters and protecting voters' rights. In Richland County, 82% of eligible voters are registered, but less than half of the registered voters go to the polls on primary days. We need to develop a plan for improving voter participation. If you're willing to help in this area, contact Margaret Ann DuBose (mabdubose@att.net).



media Technical Skills and Social Media Experience: If you're experienced in managing software of various kinds, posting on social media, or training others in any of these areas, LWV-Columbia would appreciate your assistance. Contact Laura Woliver (woliverlaurar@gmail.com) or Janelle Rivers (rivers12@bellsouth.net) to tell us how you can help.



Training and Development: Transfer your work skills and your leadership experience to support LWV-Columbia by helping to train, prepare, and mentor other League members. Contact Phyllis Jones aipmj9@aol.com). Phyllis is our newest Board member and will be Director for Training and Development.

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CHESTER'S ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE - STAYING ENGAGED DURING TURMOIL by Chester Sansbury We are in a time of political turmoil, but not for the first time. A recent sermon at my church compared biblical passages from the old and new testaments which demonstrated a lot of religious and other turmoil in ancient times. The pastor also talked briefly about the increased turmoil and challenges we face today in many aspects of our lives, politically and otherwise. However, he also stressed that we need to stay engaged. **The LWV is good at that.** Pursuing good environmental policy proposals in the face of direct challenges is another thing LWV is good at; there are too many issues to cover here.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE TRUMP PULL-OUT FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE

ACCORD is a topic that continues to get much attention. Here are a few examples of what well-respected organizations and people have to say:

- “Choosing not to address climate change would abdicate our leadership role in a critical science policy issue and put current and future generations at great risk.”
(Rush Holt, chief executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science - AAAS)

- “President Trump announced recently that he was [pulling the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement](#) because, he said, it would impose ‘draconian financial and economic burdens’ on the US. This classic fossil fuel industry rhetoric of pitting the economy against the environment (in this case the climate and future of our planet) has been proven time and time again to be a false choice.” (*Union of Concerned Scientists*).
- “Climate change is a serious global threat and ... the world will need to radically redesign industrial systems and economies in order to enable a low-carbon growth economy.” (sneaker giant *Nike*)
- “The AIA (American Institute of Architects) will not retreat from its long-established efforts to conserve energy and to deploy renewable resources in buildings. We will continue to lead in efforts to curb the use of fuels and technologies that needlessly pollute our atmosphere and harm our environment. This makes good sense economically, and it is in the best interests of those we serve: our clients and the public. Instead of helping our economy, as the Administration contends, withdrawing from the Paris Agreement will put us behind our major global competitors.” (*AIA President Thomas Vanier, FAIA*)
- “The Paris agreement provided a great opportunity for the U.S. and the world to wean out of the fossil fuel economy and step into the future with a renewable economy,” (*Veerabhadran Ramanathan*, a climate scientist with UC San Diego’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography, an internationally renowned hub of global warming research) “U.S. pulling out of the Paris accord would be a major setback for the world.”
- “It’s bad, it’s solvable, and if we don’t solve it, we’re doomed.” (*Jim Gandy, meteorologist at WLTX TV*).



ON THE LOCAL ISSUE OF WATER POLLUTION, the Congaree Riverkeeper and a coalition of partners have established a water quality monitoring and public notice project to monitor the safety of our rivers. Here's their mission statement:

- *Through a collaborative partnership between DHEC and Lower Saluda River*
- *Stakeholders work to improve long-term water quality conditions in the Lower*
- *Saluda River by increased water quality monitoring, more timely public notice of*
- *problems, rigorous compliance and enforcement of NPDES wastewater permits,*
- *and eventual elimination of all domestic wastewater discharges.*

Visit their web page to see detailed data on whether our rivers are safe for swimming.

<http://www.congareeriverkeeper.org/>. Testing results are updated weekly at
www.howsmyriver.org

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From the web site: "Between May 21st and May 25th the Midlands received between 2 to 5 inches of rain. The resulting [stormwater runoff](#) is the likely cause of the high bacteria levels in the six urban streams we sample as well as the Broad River. Once again, it is important to remember that bacteria levels usually spike in the 24-48 hours after a rain event and river users should consider past weather when making river recreation decisions. The Saluda and Congaree River samples were all below the state standard (currently safe). On (the following) Thursday SCE&G was releasing around 10,000 cfs into the Lower Saluda, which likely had a significant dilution effect on pollution in the river.

WE ALL WIN WHEN WE STAY ACTIVELY ENGAGED DURING TURMOIL. Chester Sansbury

* * *



A BIT OF GOOD NEWS ABOUT PUBLIC EDUCATION from Bradford Swann, who is the Executive Director of SouthCarolinaCAN: "One area for a special round of applause: South Carolina lawmakers passed comprehensive school accountability measures in May that will make it easier for parents to know how their neighborhood schools, as well as other schools in the area, are performing. This is a significant improvement since South Carolina hasn't had an accountability system in place since 2014. South Carolinians will now know how every public and charter school is performing."

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The LWVSC Convention 2017 was held on April 29-30 at The Inn at USC in Columbia. The theme was "Democracy – Pass It On." The keynote speaker was Pamela Goodwin from LWV Florida. She led the Florida League, in partnership with Common Cause, in a successful effort to fight gerrymandering there. She said, "Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell someone, you're probably not." She left us with a quote from Margaret Meade, "Don't think a small group can't change the world."

We were also honored to have Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris, Executive Director of LWVUS, close our convention. She spoke on the theme of how the League needs to be more nimble and forward thinking to meet the current demands of American democracy.

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FINANCING THE LEAGUE: The League of Women Voters is a non-profit, volunteer organization. None of the officers or directors at any level receives remuneration. Your dues are spent entirely on League projects and League advocacy. Because we are a political organization, dues are not tax deductible.

The dues you pay your local League are shared with the state and national Leagues. About half of the money collected for dues goes to the national level, while state and local leagues each

receive about one fourth. Supplemental fundraising is necessary for most local Leagues to cover their program expenses.

- Many members make additional financial gifts to the League, and contributors may choose whether to make donations tax-deductible or not. Donations to the League, a 504 (c)(4) organization, are not tax deductible; however, donations to the League of Women Voters Education Fund, are tax deductible. Money from the Education Fund can be used to help fund voter services and citizen education activities, while money that has been donated to the League of Women Voters can be used to fund any League activities. Members who want to make tax deductible gifts should make their contributions to the LWVCA Education Fund in a separate check. Members who are willing to have their donations used for any local League activities should make their contributions to LWV/Columbia Area.

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OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS: Rana P. Davis and Pat Mohr are heading up this brand-new endeavor for LWV-Columbia. For more detailed information or to assist as a volunteer observer, contact rana.davis@hotmail.com or patmohr@mindspring.com.

Richland County Council, 5/2/17, Robin White & Phyllis Jones

BRIEF SUMMARY:

- *Regular meeting with only the mayor and four of the six council members present.
- *A Resolution creating a food policy committee, which was contested at the April 4th meeting, was passed unanimously.
- *May 19, 2017 is Bike to Work Day in Columbia.
- *Council members made nomination for a 9 -member Quiet Zone Advisory Committee to address the issue of railroad noise in Columbia.
 - Committee positions are still available.

Voter Registration and Election Commission, 5/4/17, Robin White

BRIEF SUMMARY:

- *Certification of Democratic Primary Election House District 70 and Special Called Meeting.
- The election results were certified with no issues. Of the 14,397 registered voters, only 2,258 (15.6%) cast ballots.
- Three ballots were challenged.

*One could have been allowed if the voter had appeared before the Commission this morning as advised.

*None of the eight (8) candidates received a majority, requiring a runoff on May 16 (anticipated to require a subsidy of around \$60,000.00).

Richland Co. Elections & Voter Regulations Board, 5/10/17, Robin White, Ann Maletic, Janelle Rivers

BRIEF SUMMARY:

Present: Ms. Adams, Chair, Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Mack, Ms. Holley, and Ms. Emerson, and Rokey Suleman, who was chosen as the new executive director. The regular 4:00 p.m. meeting began with approval of minutes for April 12, April 20, and May 4. After a brief meeting in Executive Session, the board voted on the contract for the new executive director with members Adams, Kennedy, and Emerson voting to approve, Ms. Mack voting against, and Ms. Holley abstaining, saying that she lacked adequate information to make a decision. (NOTE: Observers made a notation that the vote should be verified and attempted to do so on July 20, 2017. As of that date, minutes of the May 10 meeting had not been posted at <http://www.rcgov.us/Government/Boards/ElectionsandVoterRegistrationBoard.aspx>.)

*Rokey Suleman was chosen as the new Executive Director.

*After Executive Session, Board voted on the contract for the new Executive Director.

*Mr. Suleman gave a brief status report:

- Richland County has 258,985 registered voters as of 5/08/2017 with 1,570 new registrations since April 1st.

- Processed 981 in-county change of addresses, 148 on-line registrations/updates, processed 768 duplicate registrations, and created 30 Voter IDs.

*In the recent special election, 2 machines malfunctioned but no impact was reported.

*Preparations for the scheduled runoff on May 16 complete to include voting machines being reprogrammed, tested for accuracy, and resealed with new seal numbers.

*Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots have been sent to eligible overseas voters.

Richland County Council, 5/16/17, Rana P. Davis

BRIEF SUMMARY

*Clerk search will involve a 15-day process; publication with interviews to follow.

*Board of Assessments Appeals appointment had to be reposted due to applicant being a "no show."

*Accommodations Tax appointment had to be re-advertised due to applicant's non-resident status.

*Public hearing to be held May 18th to solicit public input on Council Services budget after suggestion from Councilman Manning.

*Budget reading will be held on May 30th.

*Ann August introduced as the Interim Director of COMET/CMRTA.

Board of Voter Registration and Election, 5/18/17, Robin White

BRIEF SUMMARY

*The results of the Democratic Runoff were presented and initially approved. When distributed, the LWV observer noted a difference between ballots cast and total votes.

- Tabulated results needed amending as the initial results did not take into account all votes cast.

*29 voters cast votes but did not select any choices - called Under Votes.

- Staff reviewed the votes and presented a revised accurate tally for Board approval.

*Voter turnout was 14.6%.

*The Board came to an agreement with the Department of Justice to make 56 voter locations completely compliant with the ADA.

Richland County Council, 6/6/17, Phyllis Jones & Robin White

BRIEF SUMMARY:

*A majority of the Board of Voter Registration and the Director were present.

*Approval of restoration of funding to the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of \$433,988.00 due to error by County Administrator, Gerald Seals.

Richland County Board of Elections & Voter Registration, 6/14/17, Jane & Robin White

BRIEF SUMMARY:

Members present: Adams, Emerson, Kennedy, Mack; Absent: Holley. The Chair called for Board Chair/Vice Chair Elections. Nominated for Chair: Adams; for Vice Chair: Emerson. Adams was elected Chair 4-0. Emerson was elected Vice Chair 3-0, with Mack voting No.

*Executive Session took place took place; no votes reported.

*Future meetings every two months as usual: August 9, October 11, and December 13.

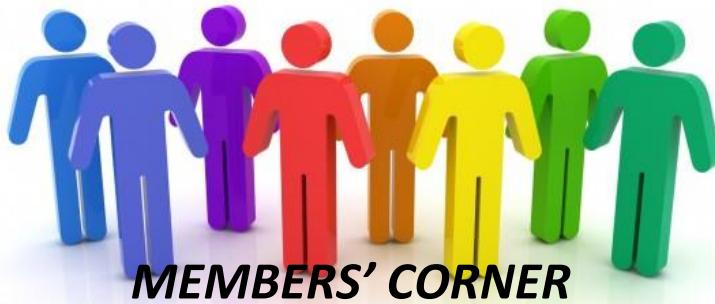
*The Lake Dogwood tax assessment special election on June 13 was last special election. In November, the City of Columbia, Irmo, and Blythewood elections will be done in conjunction with the normal November elections. House District 70 final election will be held on June 20. Certification will be done on June 22.

*LWV brought up problem with electronically accessing agendas and data for Board.

Richland County Board of Elections & Voter Registration, 5/15/17, Robin White**BRIEF SUMMARY:**

*Report on Lake Dogwood special election re: tax referendum of lake property owners. Of the 110 registered voters, 49 ballots were cast with one absentee ballot not counted as the voter was not registered. 33 voted in favor of the question and 15 opposed.

* * *



Our membership continues to grow...144 at last count. Featured here are thumbnail sketches of just a few of those new members.

Rosa Bennet, who lives in the Irmo area, is trained in social work. She retired from the State of New York where she worked as a consultant to assist others in finding employment. She currently has her own firm, which supports the writing of proposals and grants.

Susan Cirulli, from Chapin, is trained in statistics. She retired after working at the Savannah River site and at IBM for 25 years as a computer architect.

Laura Covington, from Columbia, has been a public-school teacher and administrator. She now oversees the certification program for people who follow a non-traditional route to become teachers.

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Angela Everett, from Columbia, has retired from her position as director of admissions for the School of Public Health at USC. She was also in charge of student services.

Diane Faulkenberry, from northeast Columbia, is a USC graduate. She taught in Richland Two for many years, where she specialized in teaching children with behavior problems.

Christina Goodwin, from Columbia, has stepped up to serve as webmaster for LWV-Columbia. She is employed by Hotel Guides and enjoys the convenience of working from her home.

Sherry Jacenko, from northeast Columbia, is a returning member. She moved here from Minnesota where she started a chapter of the League of Women voters in the 1970's. She is interested in voter registration.

Phyllis Jones, who lives in northeast Columbia, retired after serving 38 years as a civilian federal employee of the Veteran's Administration where she was the Southeast Regional Division Manager for Recruitment and Placement. She's using her career skills to develop a training program for the LWVCA and is serving on the board of LWVSC.

Cheryl Sigmon, from Columbia, has enjoyed a long career in public education as a teacher and administrator, and later as a national/international literacy consultant. She has also written professional books for Scholastic Publishing Co. She's lending her editing skills to help with LWVCA publications.

Allison Terracio grew up in Kentucky, lived in New York, and moved to Columbia about a year ago. She has volunteered for "Stand Up Midlands" and Planned Parenthood.

Welcome



BOARD CONTACT INFO 2017 - 2018
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE COLUMBIA AREA
OFFICERS

President	Janelle Rivers	rivers12@bellsouth.net
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2nd Vice President		
Secretary	Sharon Ayling	rsayling@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ann Maletic	annmaletic@gmail.com

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Voter Participation Director	Margaret Anne DuBose	mabdubose@att.net
Public Relations Director	Mel Jenkins	citycivics@earthlink.net
Observer Corps Director	Pat Mohr	patmohr@mindspring.com
Membership Director	Janie White	jbwhite64@gmail.com
Training Director	Phyllis Jones	aipjmj9@aol.com

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Nominating Committee	Judith Whiting	judithwhiting@aol.com
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LWVSC Board	Sally Huguley	shuguley@sc.rr.com
LWVSC Board	Sarah Leverette	sarahleverette@gmail.com
LWVSC Support Voter Data	Duncan Buell	buell@acm.org

[BACK TO TOP](#)



Websites:

National: www.lwv.org/

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

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

Facebook: To see our Facebook Page:

1. Go to YOUR Facebook page and begin typing "**League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC**" 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:

@LWColumbiaSC

* * *



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.



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



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

BACK TO TOP 