

League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area



LEAGUE LINES

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Wednesday March 13, 11:00, USC,
"Justice for All." See column for details
Tuesday March 19, 5:30-7:00, Always
United, Evening with an Author: William
Gravelly, *They Stole Him Out of Jail*,
South Carolina's Last Lynching Victim
Info: <https://www.uway.org/events/always-united-evening-author-0>

Thursday, April 18, Public Policy
Luncheon, Lourie Center, 11:45:
Representative Seth Rose (District 72)
on legislative issues

Friday and Saturday, May 4-5, LWVSC
Convention in Charleston

Thursday, May 16, Annual Members
Meeting and Social, Place TBD



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH?

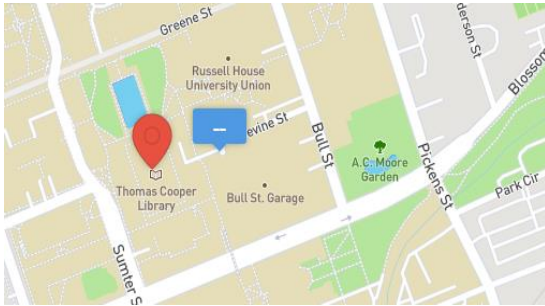
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MARCH LEARNING EVENT

"Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement"

An exclusive guided tour of the new justice exhibit has been arranged. Be at the Thomas Cooper, Hollings Special Collections Library by **11:00 on Wednesday, March 13**, (during spring break at USC). *"Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement"* covers a broad time span, from Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, and uses a wide variety of media—including recordings, film clips, photographs, diaries, and manuscripts—to highlight historical events in the history of the movement. The exhibit items fill 30 glass cases and utilize all the exhibit spaces in the Special Collections Libraries. Major themes in the exhibit include voting rights, educational justice, and desegregation.

After the tour, a room will be available for League members to discuss the exhibit and the issues presented. For those wanting to have lunch on campus, the Russell House, across the courtyard from the Thomas Cooper Library, will have options available. Details will follow.



Because the tour is scheduled during USC’s spring break, parking in the Bull Street Garage should be no problem.

Columbia is known for having short sections of streets chopped up by university construction, and the Bull Street Garage is on one of those segments—a short section of Bull Street accessed from Blossom Street. If coming from Five Points, turn right/north on the street after Pickens Street; if coming

from Main Street, turn left/north on the street after Sumter Street. Drive a short block up a steep hill, turn left on a tiny section of what was once Devine Street, and turn left again into the parking garage. It’s only a few steps from the parking garage to either Thomas Cooper Library, which houses the Hollings Political Collections, or the Russell House, where you can have lunch. **NOTE:** TAKE YOUR PARKING TICKET WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR CAR BECAUSE THE BEST PROCEDURE IS TO PAY FOR PARKING AT THE LITTLE WINDOWED OFFICE IN THE CORNER NEAREST THE LIBRARY BEFORE YOU RETURN TO YOUR VEHICLE.

The League is excited to offer this opportunity to members. Feel free to bring guests. **JoAnne Day**



*VIEW FROM RIVER'S EDGE**Janelle Rivers*

VIEW FROM THE RIVERS' EDGE: Multiplicity is a five-syllable word, a fancy way of saying “a stockpile, a whole big bunch, a passel.” Sometimes that’s a positive thing, sometimes not. For example, a multiplicity of single-issue political organizations sends regular emails to ask for donations. I find that exhausting.

On the other hand, one thing I love about the League of Women Voters is that it is a single organization with a multiplicity of carefully studied policy positions. Although we’re not presently involved in a study, the League has accumulated, reviewed, refined, and revised its policy positions for nearly a century. We have policies at national, state, and local levels that allow the League to advocate nationwide on important issues with one voice.



Unified advocacy: We are unified by our policies, and we have “one voice” in that only designated leaders speak in the name of the League. The national, state, and local policies are published so anyone may reference the positions and rationales developed over time and use that information when advocating as a citizen.

Some members have wondered recently why the League’s adopted policy statements don’t include trendy, specific language featured in a current bill. This is intentional. It’s a strength, not a weakness. For nearly a century, the League has used its study-and-consensus process to develop policies written to be clear about what the League does and does not support without being so specific that they limit the League’s ability to respond to current events and policy trends.

Public education policy: Let’s take public education as an example, because it is a hot topic in the South Carolina General Assembly. Colleagues in single-issue organizations may not be aware that the League already has an adopted policy position related to their mission. Often those positions are aligned very well and, when that’s the case, the League actively joins forces with those organizations to help them advocate. The state-level policies for the League of Women Voters of South Carolina are online at: http://lwvsc.org/files/AGENDA_FOR_ACTION_2017-2019.pdf. In the Policies-in-Brief section on page 9, there’s a summary statement that says, “Education: LWVSC supports public state-supported education at all levels which is high quality, effective, equitable, fully funded and accountable.” That’s not the actual policy—only the gist of it. If you read the full text of the League’s position on public education on pages 14-18, you’ll find clear statements about what the League does and does not support with respect to public education on a variety of subtopics.

The League also has a national policy on public education. When the League last revised its policy on the Federal Role in Public Education in 2012, I was chosen as a member of the committee creating study materials, compiling results, and drafting the revised policy. All the League's national policies are published under the title *Impact on Issues*, which can be purchased from Amazon or online without cost at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/other-issues-tools/impact-issues-2016-2018-online-edition>. The League's policy on the Federal Role in Public Education on pages 81 and 82 will remain the same in the forthcoming edition and will include updates as appropriate from the last convention.

Multiple issues, but a central focus: The League also has a few local policies which address transportation, land use, local government, and waste management. They are the result of the same careful study-and-consensus process but carried out at the local level. Local policies are reviewed prior to the annual meeting in May. You can find those on the local League's web site, www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Each League reviews policies on a regular basis. Any League can propose a study on any topic the members deem to be important for public policy. Studies are adopted by vote of representatives at the relevant level—local, state, or national. If a study is chosen, research materials are developed and distributed. Consensus meetings are held—always at the local level—because the League is fundamentally a grassroots organization. Study results are aggregated, compiled, and used to write a policy that is broad enough to cover whatever aspects of the issue may be controversial. The board at the relevant level then votes on adopting the policy. Policies can also be adopted by concurrence with a study that has been conducted by another League. When conditions change, studies can be repeated, and policies can be updated.

Each League has an annual opportunity to propose studies. Last summer, the national LWV convention elected to forego any new studies in order to focus energy and resources on the core issues of "Making Democracy Work"—expanding voter access, fighting voter suppression, money in politics, and redistricting. In the current environment, where crises happen frequently and distractions abound, broadly worded, carefully established policies allow the League to address current issues without straying from the League's core mission: "Empowering voters. Defending democracy." JR

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2/5/19 Richland County Council - Observer: L. J. Cole (Gwendolyn Kennedy absent)

Regularly scheduled meeting. During the “Citizens’ Input” session, constituents expressed concerns about Lower Richland air pollution; the ongoing problem with vehicles parked in front of homes; and the management of the Penny Fund greenway program. Additional research was requested for the first two items and a new audit will begin for the Penny Fund after the solicitation of bids. During the “Regular Session,” it was determined that the Penny Fund is in the process of being reimbursed for spending that was inappropriately charged to the Penny Fund.

The Administration & Finance Committee chaired by the Honorable Paul Livingston continued a discussion about the appearance (brick vs siding) and the cost of future magistrate buildings. Councilman Manning inquired about whether there is a process to include community input in the design of these buildings. Council will return to this item after receiving more information.

The Report of Rules & Appointments Committee chaired by The Honorable Bill Malinowski received a passing vote to publicly announce the following:

NOTIFICATION OF VACANCIES:

- Accommodations Tax – 1 vacancy (applicant must have a background in the Cultural Industry)
- Hospitality Tax – 3 vacancies (2 applicants must be from Restaurant Industry)
- Employee Grievance Committee – 6 vacancies (MUST be a Richland County employee; 2 seats are alternates)
- Board of Assessment Appeals – 1 vacancy
- Board of Zoning Appeals – 1 vacancy
- Building Codes Board of Appeals – 8 vacancies (1 applicant must be from each of these industries: Architecture, Plumbing, Electrical, Engineering, Gas, Building, & 2 applicants from the Fire industry as alternates)
- Procurement Review Panel – 2 vacancies – (1 from the public procurement & 1 must be from the consumer industry)
- Planning Commission – 1 vacancy
- Internal Audit Committee – 1 vacancy (applicant with CPA preferred)
- Richland Memorial Hospital Board – 3 vacancies
- Midlands Workforce Development Board – 1 vacancy (Private Sector Business seat; must represent private sector business with policy-making or hiring authority)

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2/11/19 District 5 School Board - Observer: Susan Mathis

Two teachers were recognized for service, as well as Dutch Fork Champions. The new Adult Education Program Coordinator discussed programming. Budget concerns regarding computers and Irmo High School's air conditioning needs were discussed. The District also announced that it is working with emergency services to better serve the needs of the schools.

2/13/19 Richland County Elections & Voter Registration Board - Observers: Robin White & Janelle Rivers

Reported resignation of Director, removal of Board by Governor.

The meeting began with Shirley Mack disagreeing with all Board actions, including the resignation of the director and the designation of Thad Hall as interim director. The board discussed the issue of the failure to count 1,040 votes due to machine and staff errors. Two legislators made presentations to the Board. Representative Rose recommended that the Board pursue machines with a paper trail. Senator Harpootlian basically called the Board ineffective, and, when Shirley Mack objected, the Senator implied that she was not qualified to be on the board as she had not completed half of the required training. When Mack objected, the Senator told her that the Governor was ready to remove her early the following week. The ensuing dialogue between the Senator and Mack was contentious. The chair made a motion to adjourn, which was gavelled in without a proper vote. Subsequent to the meeting, the Governor announced that all members of the Board were removed and the delegation was required to select a completely new board.

2/19/19 Richland County Council - Observer: Dale S. Baer

Regularly scheduled meeting. The consultant who did the utility rate study reported Richland County's proposed utility rates for its unincorporated area are consistent with rates of adjacent utilities. Item 10e: Mr. Gomeau, Interim County Administrator, said that without a rate increase the utilities would have to continue to be supported by the General Fund. On third reading, a noise ordinance passed for the unincorporated area of Richland County.

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**FEBRUARY PROGRAM PLANNING LUNCHEON Recap: Pam Craig**

We are still looking for volunteers for the Observer Corps. Volunteers need not attend every meeting or hearing. Please contact Lady June Cole.



PROGRAM PLANNING, continued

The February luncheon was our Annual Program Planning Meeting during which we reviewed our positions and priorities and how we plan to affect changes with like-minded coalitions while Making Democracy Work. League position can be found at www.lwvsc.org, then “Agenda for Action” in the search box. The League takes a broad position on most issues so that narrowly defined actions can be supported. Because, to most of us, all the priority issues remain important, we agreed to retain them but suggested adding health care to our priority issues. An important factor determining our priorities, and the limited numbers of issues we assume leadership within our community, is the need for Lynn Teague, LWVSC Lobbyist, and other League leaders to focus effectively on selected issues. Thirty-three of our members met for lunch, a wide-ranging discussion reviewing state and local policies and local priorities, and recommendations to the State Board. Our choices—redistricting and voting machines, ethics, and health care—in that order, will be summarized by Rita Paul, approved by the board, and sent to the state League. The state board will compile the information from all local Leagues, to be voted on at the convention in May.

Although this is one of the shortest articles I have written for League Lines, it does not reflect the robust conversation.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE

COLUMBIA AREA IS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2019 MIDLANDS GIVES

Online fundraiser. All money raised will be allocated to the Education Fund for Voter Education & Awareness. We have set a goal of \$2,000. Let’s all work together to make this happen! Midlands Gives is May 7, 2019. Online giving will begin on April 23, 2019. Look for more information! **Anita Baker**



SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS **Chester Sansbury**

Former Representative Bob Inglis (4th District) remains a leader in Republican Climate Change policies. He has some interesting perspectives, which include: “progressive

rhetoric surrounding the issue has contributed to a sense of urgency in the public dialogue, encouraging influential corporate lobbyists, who support moderate solutions to address climate change but want to avoid policies that include heavy regulations, to act proactively. Ultimately, congressional republicans' reaction to the Green New Deal may offer a glimmer of hope that a legislative climate solution will pass a divided Congress in coming years."

Presbyterians USA <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/opw/2018/12/19/in-support-of-the-energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act-of-2018/>



PHOTO GALLERY



Lunch before the Annual Meeting convenes – Anita Baker, new administrative assistant for the State Board, Betsy Oakman, Pat Manley & Suzanne Rhodes – League Lines Editors

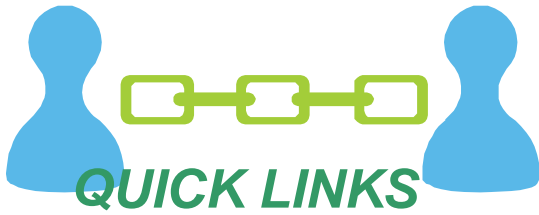


Susan Cirulli, Suzanne Rhodes, Kim Baker, Pat Manley, and others



Rita Paul, 2nd Vice President, and Missy Caughman, Government Liaison

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Websites:

National: www.lwv.org/

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

Columbia: 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

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

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