



Dear League Member,

We kicked off Fiscal Year 2025-2026 amid major leadership transitions—new committee chairs, new Board members, new momentum. At our kickoff meeting, we recommitted to our core work: boosting voter engagement and advocacy—while also shoring up our League for the year ahead and the midterm election cycle to come.

Power the Mission

We secured a grant to support our Membership Team—helping us retain and grow membership while rolling out the new membership portal. Results: 50 new members, an 88% retention rate, and steady progress toward a membership that better reflects the demographics of our community.

The newly formed finance team had the goal to increase our funds available for our teams through fundraising and potential grant opportunities. We're happy to report that we are at 50% of our goal.

Amplify Our Message

This year, the Communications Team rebuilt how we work—creating tools that streamline committee-to-Board communication and a shared content repository that makes our programs and social media messaging faster, sharper, and more consistent. We launched a refreshed newsletter and monthly Women Defend Democracy action alerts. They also helped drive strong attendance at their program with the *Post and Courier* on disinformation in the news.

Light Our Way

Social Justice, Education, and the Observer Corps continue to monitor—and, most importantly, report—what's happening in our community and across the state. Through partner relationships, participation in state committees, and regular attendance at city and county meetings, they surface what matters to the League and the public. Highlights included celebrating Women's Equality Day with WREN (Women's Rights and Equality Network) and previewing their forthcoming report, "The Status of Women and Girls in South Carolina," as well as helping residents understand local government through "Behind the Decisions: How Local Government Works" as election season approaches.

The Mission

Voter Services is our boots-on-the-ground team—registering and educating voters at high schools, local colleges, and community events across our area. This year, the team also dug into county voter demographic data and built a plan to reach and turn out voters ages 18–44. With grants secured from both the state and national Leagues, they are partnering with Communications to create fresh, engaging outreach materials for events. Those conversations are helping us pinpoint the issues people care about—and that insight will shape both our VOTE411 questions and the candidate forums we host for the General Election.

All Systems Go! The Countdown Begins.

This year laid the groundwork for what comes next. By investing in our membership, strengthening our systems, and deepening our community connections, we have positioned the League for what comes next— the Midterms.

Please join us at our Annual Meeting

11:30 AM Wednesday May 20, 2026

Wise Guys

1513 Main Street, Hilton Head Island

Thank you each for all you do to make our mission a successful one!



Deborah A. McGivern
Co-president



Joanne Gatti-Petito
Co-president

League of Women Voters Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt