



# SC Voter

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Website: [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org)

Volume 63, Issue 1

Summer 2013

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# *Holds 2013 Convention* *In Spartanburg County*



**Representative Bill Taylor, Former Attorney General Henry McMaster, Senator Wes Hayes**

interesting sessions, including:

- Health Care Access for All in South Carolina - Presenters: **Dr. Paul DeMarco, Coordinator for Advancing**

**2013 CONVENTION:** *continued on page 4 –*

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**Mary Deku, Local LWV Convention Planning Chairman and former LWV Spartanburg County President**

More than 70 League members from across the state gathered in Duncan SC on April 27-28 for the **2013 League of Women Voters of South Carolina convention**. The two-day meeting was hosted by the LWV of Spartanburg County.

This convention celebrated the League's 62nd year in South Carolina.

**Lynn Teague, LWVSC VP and JoAnne Day, LWVSC Co-President**

"The theme, **"Honoring Our Past as We Grow the League's Future in South Carolina,"** was woven throughout Convention with outstanding sessions offering strategies for growing and sustaining the League, illustrations of political leadership and courage from our past and present, along with educational opportunities on hot button policy issues," said Barbara Zia, LWVSC Co-President.

**Mayor John Hamby and Councilwoman Lisa Scott** welcomed LWVSC visitors to their town.

In addition to conducting League business, members and guests enjoyed outstanding and



## Co-Presidents' Perspectives:

We are both honored and excited that the membership of the League of Women Voter of SC has chosen us to lead our organization for the next two years. We know the next two years will be busy for the League as always, and especially with an election year coming up in 2014.

But before we look forward to the future we would like to acknowledge our past president, the amazing Barbara Zia. For the past six years Barbara has devoted herself to all things League and as an organization we have made tremendous strides in visibility and impact throughout the State.

In 2008 it was Barbara's idea to begin the building of our organized advocacy effort at the SC General Assembly. A short four years later we are recognized as a source of reliable information as well as a force to be reckoned with by many SC legislators. Barbara was also a driving force in the acquisition of a grant to educate the public on the need for a diverse and independent judiciary. She was also instrumental in securing a grant to help local Leagues do outreach to educate and register voters in public colleges and universities as well as high schools. And most importantly, Barbara helped lead the League's three year battle against South Carolina's discriminatory photo ID law, culminating in her testimony on behalf



**JoAnne Day**  
*Co-President, LWVSC*

of the League in the District Court in Washington, DC. Through the League's efforts and the efforts of our partners we successfully mitigated the most discriminatory parts of the photo id law.

Indeed, Barbara leaves large shoes to fill. And there will be no shortage of challenges in the next two years. The Supreme Court decision to gut the Voting Rights Act will require the League to work overtime. We will redouble our efforts to educate and register voters, as well as continuing to advocate for legislation that increases voter access rather than impedes it.

Ethics reform will continue to be our number one legislative initiative at the



**Susan Richards**  
*Co-President, LWVSC*

General Assembly. We need a more open and transparent state government. We will continue to lead that fight with our coalition partners. Medicaid expansion and adequate funding of our public schools will continue to be on our radar. The issue of home rule for our local governments is also a priority issue for the League in the coming years.

We have an enthusiastic and talented board to lead us in these efforts but we ultimately depend on our grass roots membership for inspiration and support. We need your help. We join hands with you to help empower our voters and make our democracy work in South Carolina.

## Voter Protection Grant Awarded to LWVSC

*By Paula Egelson, EdD, LWVSC Vice President, Voters Service*

The National League of Women Voters Education Fund awarded funding to LWVSC to carry out a several voter protection activities across the state during 2012-2013. One of these activities in early 2013 was having local Leagues administering surveys to state offices that provide public assistance and disability services to determine if they were offering information about voter registration to all their clients. This offering of voter registration to clients at public assistance and disability services offices is in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (Section 7). In 2009 and 2010 SC public assistance and

disability offices registered very few individuals to vote.

The surveys were administered in selected SC counties that represented urban, rural or suburban locales. They included the Charleston area, the Clemson area, Greenville, Horry County, Orangeburg and Spartanburg. Local League representatives volunteered to administer surveys. In each selected county, two to four public assistance and disability offices were surveyed during regular work hours. At each site two survey forms were completed, one for the office and one for the clients. It took volunteers approximately four hours to

complete the surveys at each site.

LWVSC worked with Project Vote on this initiative; it is a non-partisan D.C. voter rights group with lots of experience in monitoring compliance with the National Voter Registration Act. Sarah Brannon from Project Vote offered the training to project volunteers. There were grant funds for such things as transportation and materials available to local Leagues who participated in this project.

The results of the surveys will be out this summer and members will be updated with results. We are grateful to members and non-members who participated in this important project.





## 2013 CONVENTION: *continued from page 1 –*

**Rural Communities Health Program at Francis Marion University and Sue Berkowitz, Director, SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center.**

- Growing Sustainable Communities - **Presenters: Hon. Harold Mitchell, SC Representative, (Dist. 31, Spartanburg County), Dean Hbyl, Executive Director, Ten at the Top, and Nancy Fitzer, Education Director, Upstate Forever.**
- A workshop on promoting League sustainability through membership and leadership growth, led by **Kelly McFarland Stratman, LWVUS Field Service Director.**

A special focus of the 2013 Convention was on the League's involvement with government ethics reform. The League is engaged in an intense campaign to bring REAL ethics reform to South Carolina government. During Sunday morning's panel discussion, **Senator Robert Wes Hayes, Jr., Representative Bill Taylor, and former Attorney General Henry McMaster** discussed measures to strengthen government transparency and integrity. Attendees were updated on the League's efforts, information on any progress that has been made in the House and Senate, and details on what they can do to help pass REAL ethics reform this year.

**Former 4th District South Carolina Congresswoman Elizabeth Johnston Patterson**, was one of the LWVSC's 2013 **Spirit of Democracy award winners** for her commitment to making democracy work in South Carolina. Liz, a long-time member of the LWV of Spartanburg County, also served three terms in the US Congress. After leaving Congress she continues to be actively involved in the political arena and believes that the League has been instrumental in encouraging her involvement in politics. Ms. Patterson was keynote speaker on the topic of "**Leaning In: Women's Influence on Politics In South Carolina**".

**Spartanburg League President Linda Bilanchone** also received the **Spirit of Democracy award** for her many years of service in the League and community. In addition to serving six terms as president of the Spartanburg League, Linda has served as president, and vice-president of the State League. Especially noteworthy, however, is her leadership in a tremendous variety of public service organizations that have as their goal bringing about active and informed participation of citizens in their government.

Local Leagues receiving awards for **Membership Growth since 2011** were **Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area and Darlington County.**

At the banquet on Saturday night, **nationally acclaimed storyteller Ellouise Schoettler** performed her "Pushing Boundaries" program, the story of an

ordinary woman living through the Women's Movement, an extraordinary time of change in America.

The successful gathering gave League members across South Carolina an opportunity to celebrate the League's accomplishments in making sure voters are registered, informed and confident in the political process and important policy issues, and plan the League's next two years in South Carolina.

**Susan Richards and JoAnne Day** were elected by the group's leaders as co-presidents of the LWVSC for the next two years. A long-time state and local League leader from Charleston, Susan pledged to continue the League's commitment to bringing more citizens into the political process, and to member-driven, research-based advocacy on difficult issues that the League is known for in South Carolina.

The newly elected co-presidents affirmed that the League will advocate on issues prioritized by leaders at convention: public education, ensuring citizen access to voting, reforming the state's ethics laws, transportation, conservation, and tax reform. Leaders also adopted new positions from the League's 2-year member study, *Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers in South Carolina's public schools.*

For more about convention, go to [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org). Photos are at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-South-Carolina/251544131543145>.

**Thanks to our Convention sponsors: AARP SC; SC Coastal Conservation League; Barbara Zia; Susan Richards; Peggy Brown; Karyn Page-Davies; Sarah Leverette. Special thanks to Jean Norman who sold her beautiful jewelry to convention attendees and contributed 10% of her sales to LWVSC. Thanks to our Convention In-Kind Sponsors: Coca Cola; Costco; Denny's; Ingles Markets; Publix; Sam's Club.**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

## **2013 South Carolina League Leaders Day**

*Calling All South Carolina LWV Members*

You are cordially invited to this informative, fun event to help launch another exciting League year.

***Sustaining South Carolina: Our Land and People, Our League and Leaders***

**Saturday, August 24, 9:30-3:30**

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall • 1715 Bull St., Columbia*

**WATCH FOR DETAILS IN THE MAIL AND AT [WWW.LWVSC.ORG](http://WWW.LWVSC.ORG)**



# LWVSC Co-Presidents' Report 2011-2013

Barbara Zia & Peggy Brown

*The state of the League in South Carolina is strong! We are growing and flourishing.*

This year we launch the 63rd year since the formal authorization of LWVSC by the national League. As our 2013 Convention theme proudly declares, *We honor our past as we grow the League's future here in South Carolina*. In our state, the League of Women Voters was constructed on a foundation of hope by our state's foremost suffragist leaders — hope and belief that engagement in our democracy should be expanded to include all citizens. Consistently, the League is ahead of its times and leading the state forward.

The biennium that ended at Convention has been busy and eventful for the League in South Carolina. So much has been done to make our League stronger from the grassroots up. The Vision Statement adopted by the Board has charted our course over the biennium:

**LWVSC is a reliable source of information on public policy issues and a voice for increased voter participation and responsive, transparent government.**

You, our members and leaders across South Carolina, are the true torch-bearers of our League's mission and vision. Our accomplishments have been stunning in areas like protecting, educating and engaging voters, ensuring the integrity of our voting system, increasing voter access, government integrity and transparency, reforming judicial selection, growing our membership and enhancing leadership, studying how to evaluate and retain effective teachers in our public schools. These achievements are the result of partnership at all levels of the League. The impact is truly synergistic.

**We are deeply appreciative of the hard work and commitment of members of the state leadership team during the 2011-2013.** The state League's talent pool is as deep as the great ocean that washes our state's shores. The service of some of these outstanding leaders to

our League extends well beyond this biennium. Stepping down from the state League Board at this Convention are:

- **Laurel Suggs** has served in numerous leadership positions since 1993, including 6 years as state president.
- **Dianne Haselton** has managed LWVSC finances as treasurer for 10 years.
- **Janie Shipley**, as vice president, dedicated herself to growing our membership and coordinating the Membership and Leadership Development Initiative.
- **Della Baker** faithfully, expertly and patiently kept League business straight as Board secretary.
- **Jon Butzon**, as education director, skillfully managed to co-chair the education study and juggle myriad education policy issues, such as school funding and tuition tax credits.
- **Martha Hurley**, as criminal and juvenile director, brought her passion and experience on justice issues, particularly on issues that affect our state's youth and families.

We are excited about our state and local Leagues' prospects over the next two years and we look forward to working with all of you to move our organization to new and even greater heights.

## Advocacy for the Voter Campaign

During 2011-13, the League continued its fight in the General Assembly and federal courts to protect the voting rights of our state's citizens. In May 2011, South Carolina ratified Act R54 which required voters to provide one of the following current and valid photo IDs to vote: S.C. Driver's License, S.C. DMV ID Card, S.C. Voter Registration Card with photo, Federal, Military ID, or Passport.

The LWVSC intervened in *South Carolina v. Holder* to fight against preclearance of South Carolina's photo ID law for voters. Specifically, we

argued that the law conflicted with the Voting Rights Act of 1964 because the State could not prove that the law would not disproportionately impact racial minorities, many of whom lack an approved ID and would have difficulty obtaining one. The ruling from the U.S. District Court in Washington, DC, on the fairness of the South Carolina voter photo ID requirement was favorable to the League's concerns. The law that the Court approved for implementation in elections beginning in 2013 was a highly weakened version of Act R54 as ratified by the state.

LWVSC fought photo ID legislation since its introduction in the state legislature in 2009, organizing and leading a voting rights partnership of nonpartisan citizen advocacy groups who were joined in opposition to the law and collaborated on a public information campaign. Once the photo ID measure was ratified in 2011, we continued our advocacy and community education efforts, submitting comments to the Department of Justice and informing citizens about current voting procedures and possible changes.

## Initiative on Judicial Independence and Diversity

In August 2010 the South Carolina state and 11 local Leagues embarked on a statewide judicial project. The goals of the League's judicial initiative were: first, to inform citizens about the state judiciary and its important role in their lives, and second to identify changes to the current judicial selection process that would increase levels of independence and diversity. In January 2010, LWVSC filed an amicus brief with the state Supreme Court in the case of Segars-Andrews v. Judicial Merit Selection Commission, et al. In our brief we argued that South Carolina's judicial selection system puts judicial independence at risk because complete control is vested to the legislature which qualifies candidates through the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and then selects judges by vote of the General Assembly.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT: continued on page 5 –

## CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT:

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Funding came in part from the League of Women Voters Education Fund, and the Transparency and Integrity Fund of the Open Society Institute.

Leagues in South Carolina organized educational activities. Our Judicial initiative launched in October 2010 with a conference in Charleston where an impressive array of state and national judicial experts tackled the topic of whether South Carolina's Judiciary is independent and reflective of the diversity of our state. Here are a few highlights of our activities:

- An essay contest for Lexington and Richland County HS comparing South Carolina's judicial selection system to those of other states
- A contest for Spartanburg highschoolers to create a video illustrating the importance of a diverse judiciary

- A meeting with members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission
- Educational forums sponsored by local Leagues such as Hilton Head, Darlington, Florence, Horry County, Greenville, Charleston, Sumter and Clemson that featured distinguished jurists, legislators, merit selection commissioners, attorneys and legal scholars, including the retired chief justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, Ruth MacGregor
- The Greenville County League's web-based project dedicated to information about South Carolina's judicial system, from A to Z.

Since 2012 LWVSC has monitored the judicial selection process for state judges and advocated for changes, such as increased non-legislative representation on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. Constance Anastopoulou and Sarah Leverette coordinate the action.

## Participate in Project Conflict Watch

The LWVSC board has voted to participate in Project Conflict Watch, an initiative of the South Carolina Policy Council. **We are committed to efforts to require full income disclosure by elected officials through reform of ethics legislation.** However, while the legislative process continues this project provides an opportunity for our elected officials in state government to voluntarily disclose their sources of income, and thus their potential conflicts of interest with the public. We hope that League members will cooperate by asking those who represent you to participate.

Complete instructions and the form that officials are asked to complete are available at <http://www.scpolicycouncil.org/conflict-watch>. You can also check to see if your representatives have already cooperated with the project. This is not only an opportunity to learn about individual officials, but a chance to remind South Carolina's officials that we are watching and want to see a strong commitment to ethical behavior from all of them.

# What You Can Do To Promote Home Rule

*By Holley Ulbrich, PhD, LWVSC Director, Local & State Taxation; Home Rule*

At the LWVSC convention in April, a group of 14 people caucused to discuss what we could do to improve the sorry state of home rule in South Carolina. **Home rule means the exercise of independent authority by a local government.** There are three kinds of home rule: fiscal (control over taxes, budgets, spending); structural (forms of government, methods of election, boundaries, etc.); and powers of appointment. South Carolina has had controversies over all three, but there have been two points of contention in the last decade, school districts and appointments. In addition, there is an ongoing issue around local legislation.

School districts were created by separate acts of the legislature that spelled out their boundaries, the composition of the board and method of selection, and the fiscal powers of the school board. The General Assembly has the power to change any of these—change the size of the board, consolidate or split districts, or change the degree of fiscal autonomy. Dillon County is frustrated by the inability to elect their district boards. Sumter County had a controversial consolidation. Fairfield County was subjected to a legislative change in structure. Pickens County lost its three at large members

of the school board. Two years ago, the state League added a position calling for referenda to be held before making such changes in school districts.

Issues surrounding powers of appointment arise from time to time, primarily for counties. If a board or commission is created by an ordinance of county council, the county council makes the appointments. If the board or commission is created by statute (General Assembly), those appointments are made at the state level, most commonly by the governor on recommendation of the county delegation. Election Commissions are one example. Even if these local bodies hire employees paid by County Council, the county government has no authority over them.

Finally, the constitution forbids local legislation—bills passed in the General Assembly that affect only one or a few named local governments. However, the practice continues. The legislators from the affected area vote and the rest vote present. In the Senate, votes are allocated between senators in that county or school district based on the proportion of voters represented. In Pickens County, for example, Senator Martin represents 81% of the county and Senator Alexander represents 19%, so Senator Alexander's

vote is irrelevant and his constituents in Pickens County have no voice.

What can we do? For starters, we can take more interest in appointments. We can urge our local county councils and county delegations to publicize upcoming appointments so that we can offer candidates. But beyond that, we need to talk to our legislators about making changes. Urge them to delegate some of those appointments to county boards and commissions to county councils. That would require legislative changes, but in the meantime, they could invite nominations from county councils that would have something of the same effect. We also need to continue to protest the practice of local legislation and to seek more structural home rule for school districts and more uniform rules governing fiscal autonomy for school districts.

Local governments are the easiest ones to keep a close watch on and to influence. We see our county officials and school board members every day at the local watering holes, or even the post office. Let's work to empower them so that we, in turn, can have more influence on the policies and decisions of our counties and school districts.



# Sustainable Agriculture - A Political Priority

By Lisa Turansky, Sustainable Agriculture Program Director, Coastal Conservation League

*Editor's Note: LWVUS 2012 Convention delegates adopted an update of the national League's position on Agriculture Policy which was adopted in 1988. The Agriculture Update focuses on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including, consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.*

*The LWVUS Study Committee will post study materials and a Leaders Guide with consensus questions at [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) in late summer 2013. State and local Leagues hold consensus meetings from Sept. 2013-April 1, 2014. Consensus result or new position statement will be announced before May 2014 LWVUS Convention. The following invited commentary is provided as background on the issues.*

More than three million acres of active farmland stretch across South Carolina's landscape. It is virtually impossible to travel anywhere in our state without crossing a farm or farm community. Never has this rural character been more important than at this juncture in our food system, when increasingly, consumers are turning to local fields to supply their fruits and vegetables. Our state is poised to be a leader in meeting this local food demand in a new constitution that preserves rural lands, creates jobs, improves public health, and enhances communities in a way that we have, to date, failed to achieve. But supporting local farming will take new thinking, policies, and support structures. Our elected officials and we, as citizens who elect them, must advocate for decisions that support local agriculture in order to elevate rural South Carolina. It's no small feat, but we are moving in the right direction.

For the past twenty five years, the Coastal Conservation League (CCL) and many other organizations, have been working successfully to conserve lands across the coastal plain. With our partners, we have preserved more than one million acres of pristine land so that future generations can enjoy thriving long leaf pine forests, unique Carolina Bays, and a stunning array of wildlife, among other ecological treasures.

But the time has come to do more to protect our values. Despite the numerous rewards of past rural land conservation efforts, many rural communities find it difficult to earn a working wage and

suffer from health epidemics associated with what they are eating. In fact, these communities are often referred to as, "Forgotten South Carolina," and were written about in detail in Doug Pardue's series in the Post and Courier earlier this year. Working directly with these communities – the fabric of our state -- to provide economic and enhanced quality of life opportunities focused on local food production is one of the primary charges for CCL's Sustainable Agriculture program.

However, to build on the potential that local food systems hold for rural South Carolina, policy makers and elected officials need to address a few key hurdles for local producers. Namely, local food businesses must be able to compete on level playing ground with other agricultural businesses. Incentives and funding housed in federal and state policies should reflect consumer demand for local fresh produce.

Modern US policies support and subsidize large-scale conventional growers and have led to a consolidation of agriculture businesses. Our government spends big dollars on large-scale agriculture. For example, annual corn-ethanol subsidies in the past have ranged from \$5 to \$7 billion, supporting large-scale corn production. By contrast, small-scale farmers received less than \$3 billion total in the form of government programs. But they need our support. Small farmers are constantly struggling to recoup the full cost of production in order to survive. Another notable point

is that the SC Department of Agriculture recently requested \$500,000 from the General Assembly to expand the Certified SC program, a program that supports local food and farm products. That attempt was vetoed and sustained. Even modest investments in local agriculture could have enormous positive impacts for our rural communities.

As an exercise in international perspective, let me share my recent experience studying local food systems throughout France, Switzerland and Germany. In these countries, small-scale farms, ranches and businesses are protected by policies and economic incentives, often tied to education and certification programs, and including extensive brand and origin protection policies. Intentional investments and ongoing support of local agriculture have ensured that family farms remain intact, growers have a valuable product, and the culture thrives. The landscape, cut into small parcels of diversified farms, directly reflects these policies and priorities.

Fundamental values and policies involving food and food production shape the rural landscape, and consequently, communities. Across the world, leaders are implementing programs and policies that support every aspect of local agriculture, from the soil to the table. In this time of overdue attention to the importance of local food, it is more crucial than ever to hold elected officials to a higher standard for farm and food policy reform to support sustainable agriculture. South Carolina deserves it.

# League Advocacy in the 2013 Legislative Year

By Lynn Shuler Teague, LWVSC Vice President, Issues & Action

*Editor's Note: Part of the following report on ethics reform was published as **We Won't Let Ethics Reform Die**, an op-ed column in *The State*, June 12, 2013.*

The 2013 legislative year, the first of the two-year 2013-2014 session, was a very busy one for League advocacy. As usual, issues of voting, elections, and of accountable and transparent government were in the forefront, but the League was also involved on other fronts.

## Ethics Reform

The 2013 legislative year began with high hopes of badly needed reform of South Carolina's ethics laws. Ethics issues underlie many of South Carolina's most serious problems, as major government policy is shaped by the flow of money through our state government. In the past several years, serious cases of ethics problems at the state level created momentum for what many hoped would be significant change. However, South Carolina remains without a strong, effective ethics law. Ethics bills were introduced in both houses of the General Assembly, but none of the major bills became law. As a state, we must ask why reforms that would provide much-needed accountability and oversight of our state legislators failed to pass.

The General Assembly and Governor embarked early on separate efforts to study ethics issues and introduce reform legislation this year. In December League testimony was given before three General Assembly committees on ethics reform, as well as the **Governor's S.C. Commission on Ethics Reform, chaired by former Attorneys General Travis Medlock and Henry McMaster and advised by attorneys James Burns and John Simpkins**. The Commission produced an excellent and thorough report.

As the legislative session began we took on a multi-organizational leadership role in ethics reform advocacy, in company with organizations such as the **Coastal Conservation League, Conservation Voters of South Carolina,**

**and the American Association of Retired People**. Testimony was given before subcommittees, there were discussions with many legislators, and a very lively public education program was carried out.

Nevertheless, at the end of the year, the one surviving major ethics bill, H.3945, was left in a status of interrupted debate. We are told that there was insufficient time for debate. However, very active work began as early as 2012, and H.3945 made the May 1 deadline for crossover from the House to the Senate, a date that exists to ensure time for debate. Unfortunately, senators from the far right wing of the Republican Party came together with the majority of Democrats to delay and run out the clock to ensure that there was insufficient time for passage. Some watchers doubtless wondered why TEA Party Republicans and Democrats had developed a shared passion for peripheral issues like the definition of a motorcycle. The answer was an intentional effort to stop ethics reform. Having run out the clock, the same individuals then complained that insufficient time was left to debate the issue. Many legislators are especially opposed to meaningful reform of enforcement systems for legislative ethics complaints.

Some senators tell us that the disciplinary actions taken against former Sen. Robert Ford are evidence that the current system is not broken. We strongly disagree. Robert Ford served in the state Senate for two decades and yet it took until 2013 to identify and address his problems. The General Assembly does not have any enthusiasm for identifying and correcting problems with its own. The institution also is not equipped with the investigative staff needed to ensure compliance with the law. Citizens should not need to depend on lucky accidents for the exposure of wrongdoing or on the integrity of individuals to ensure that our interests are protected. We need laws that provide adequate investigative mechanisms and transparency. We need a government of laws, not of men.

There are other contentious issues

related to ethics reform. There are members of the General Assembly who are not enthusiastic about revealing their private sources of income and allowing the public to see their conflicts of interest. Some may dream of the day when they can create their own "leadership PAC" to sidestep limits on campaign contributions. Some may see independent PACs with anonymous donors as a road to success for their cause. Sadly, some are simply pleased to deny the governor success on her central issue for the year, regardless of the best interests of our state.

**However, others worked hard for the good of the people of South Carolina and deserve our thanks. Senators Wes Hayes, John Courson and Larry Martin deserve our lasting gratitude for their strong support for reform. Sen. Chip Campsen made important amendments on central issues in an attempt to reach consensus on a bill that would pass the Senate. Sen. Vincent Sheheen consistently supported reform efforts and offered useful amendments in Judiciary Committee. Representatives Rick Quinn, James Smith, Tommy Pope, Beth Bernstein and others worked to improve an earlier version in the House.**

## Voting and Elections

H.3197 provides for moving election oversight from the Elections Commission to the partisan Secretary of State's Office. We supported strengthening the authority of the Elections Commission in preference to moving elections to the partisan Secretary of State's Office. County elections officials and the State Elections Commission strongly opposed this bill. It made it to the floor of the House but was recommitted and remains in House Judiciary.

Early voting bills were introduced in both houses of the General Assembly. The Senate bill, S.4, provides early voting without changes in current absentee voting provisions. The House bill, H.3176, made unacceptable and unneeded changes to limit excused absentee voting, along with

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## LEAGUE ADVOCACY:

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other changes. We supported the first, and opposed the second. Both bills crossed over to the house where they did not originate, but were inactive at the end of the legislative year.

A bill to require proof of citizenship, S.227, also stalled.

## Education

Discussions the previous spring with leaders in the General Assembly had suggested that a major effort to reform education funding to insure adequate funds for low-income areas would be a substantial focus in the new session. The planned reform bill did not materialize, and the underlying political issues suggest that efforts of this kind do not have a rosy future until there are significant political shifts in South Carolina's political landscape.

Unfortunately, in 2013 a budget proviso succeeded in creating the first success for those who wish to drain funds from public education to subsidize private education. This will doubtless be followed by attempts to expand the program in coming years. Reverting to the topic of ethics reform, it is probably significant that this is the first year that Howard Rich

and other out-of-state interests behind this libertarian movement poured a lot of money into the SC Senate. In previous years, the focus was much more heavily on the House, which backed bills similar to the proviso that passed.

## Medicaid Expansion

The League participated in the Accept ME Coalition that backed accepting the Medicaid Expansion associated with the federal Affordable Care. Unsurprisingly this did not pass this year, but efforts will continue, and it is believed that eventually South Carolina will join other states in this much-needed reform.

## The Coming Year

The League plans for the coming year focus on vigorously pursuing ethics reform as well as engaging on issues of voting and elections. We will continue to participate in the Medicaid Expansion Coalition and work on other issues as they emerge.

Senator John Courson, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, has created a select committee to attempt to make progress on ethics reform before the General Assembly reconvenes and H.3945 is once more on the floor for debate. We hope for opportunities to work with this group

and with other legislators who wish to pursue reform, and we intend to continue very active efforts to keep this issue in the forefront. We are told that citizens don't care about this issue. That is not true, although sadly many citizens have given up hope and believe that efforts to fix our problems are doomed. We hope to identify stronger messaging that will engage the public on this issue. However, the General Assembly often passes bills that were not the product of popular energy. Their repeated contention that lack of citizen interest means ethics reform doesn't matter is a self-serving excuse, not a legitimate reason for inaction.

It is likely that elections changes will be attempted in the wake of the SCOTUS decision invalidating the parts of the Voting Rights Act that required preclearance by the federal Department of Justice for changes in South Carolina's election laws. Efforts to require proof of citizenship should not be part of this since a separate SCOTUS decision invalidated state efforts to require this. However, this is a state that tolerates bills that pretend to nullify federal law, so it is not inconceivable that further efforts will be made on this front. Whatever changes are attempted will be the subject of intensive League study and advocacy.

# THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT:

## *Our 2012-2013 Member Contributors (through June 30, 2013)*

*Thanks to all who make the League's work possible through their generous donations in 2012-2013. We depend on the gifts of those people who support the League beyond their membership dues. Gifts of all sizes are very much appreciated. We will spend your money wisely.*

### **Grassroots Club (\$1 to \$49)**

Keller Barron  
*(Memory of Jo Teagle)*  
Linda Cimadon  
Sylvia K. Dreyfus  
Christie McCoy-Lawrence  
Lucille Mould  
*(Memory of Frances K. Boozer)*  
Ellen S. Reneke  
Shan Rose  
Reggie Turetzky  
Loretta D. Warden  
Ann N. Williamson  
Julie A. Wittig

### **Voters Club (\$50 to \$149)**

Mary Elizabeth G. Baker  
Carol Barker  
Keller H. Barron  
Peggy J. Brown  
Mary Lynn Conway  
Evelyn Dolven  
Margaret T. Downward  
Frances L. Elmore  
Lewis T. Fitch  
Linda Gahan  
William M. Gilfillin  
Dee Goforth  
Dianne Haselton

Charlotte Holmes  
Margaret G. Huchet  
Sarah A. Jayne  
Ann M. Maletic  
Vivian A. Miller  
Mariean H. Northrup  
Marguerite G. Paul  
Frances L. Plotnik  
Lynn Teague  
Carolyn S. Voight  
Janet S. Welch

### **Consensus Club (\$150 to \$249)**

Ethel S. Brody  
Donald D. and Mary L. Miles

### **Action Club (\$250 to \$499)**

Mary T. Klenz  
Janie & Robin White

### **President's Club (\$500+)**

JoAnne Day  
Eleanor and Bill Hare  
Chester and Anella Sansbury  
*(Memory of  
Eunice Marshall Sansbury)*  
Barbara Zia





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# Jane Pulling, EdD, represents LWVSC at LWVUS Council

*By Jane Pulling, EdD, LWVSC Director, Education*

What a great experience representing the LWVSC at LWVUS Council 2013! The most exciting finale to a Council meeting ever—we were there together—all 120 of us on June 17, 2013 when the Supreme Court handed down its ruling in the Arizona Voting Rights case, favoring the rights of voters—something the Arizona League and LWVUS had worked so hard to achieve.

This decision is just one of the many successes of the LWVUS. The LWVUS fought back and won last year in 11 states where voter suppression was present, including our own state, South Carolina. 50% of Leagues nationwide registered voters at high schools and community colleges, of course, including our own LWVSC. 240 Leagues participated in National Voter Registration Day. LWVUS distributed more than 2 million pieces of voter information.

The theme of Council 2013 was **Power: Our Voices—Our Votes**. The focus was what we can achieve for our democracy when we work together: national, state and local Leagues in collaboration. Participants heard success stories from state and local Leagues. LWV Wisconsin raised \$200,000 dollars to fight a voter suppression bill that passed their legislature. The Minnesota League developed a video and toolkit opposing voter photo ID and trained local Leagues to use it to speak against the bill throughout the state. They formed a coalition with AARP, ACLU and others. As a result of their efforts, the ballot initiative was defeated and their membership grew 11%. In Florida, the League successfully challenged a law restricting 3rd party organizations from registering voters. And of course, LWVSC successfully challenged our state's photo ID law at the federal district court level, resulting in a law that was, in essence, defanged.

We heard about "The State of Our Democracy" from Myrna Perez at the Brennan Center for Justice, Dave Leventhal from the Center for Public

Integrity, and Frank Cezno of the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University. We learned that in 2012, 200 voter ID and voter suppression bills were blunted or blocked but that our work is not finished.

From Michelle Molloy, we learned the importance of 'branding' to creating positive social change. Brands are what your organization stands for in the hearts and minds of your audience. "If you exist, you have a brand." We live in a hyper-branded world. To be successful as an organization, our brand must be managed and must evolve. The signals we send are critical and consistency is the key.

There was a very helpful session on fundraising. We learned that our programs should drive fundraising. If we want our Leagues to be active, advocate, and achieve, we must raise the money to pay for printing and distributing materials, social media costs, mileage, membership recruitment, and more. We can raise money by applying for grants (some from LWVUS), by fundraising events, by soliciting donations from individuals, foundations, and businesses, and by personal giving.

Speakers from the Young Peoples' Project of LWVUS told us how to recruit younger members and differences between Gen X, Gen Y and the millennials and the Boomer generation.

One key difference, younger people's use of social media was given further attention in a separate breakout session. Stephanie Drahan and Renee Davidson showed us how to use Facebook and Twitter to recruit volunteers, members, and donations—and to reach outside our membership to connect with others who will help us advocate for issues. I tweeted and posted to Facebook for the rest of Council. Stephanie stressed how important it is to respond to followers quickly. She shared the power of good photos to draw attention, how to schedule posts, and the best time to post for maximum viewership.

From Shauneen Grout and others we learned about the importance of leadership development to our Leagues at the state and local level. We heard success stories from state Leagues like Oregon who have worked with the LWVUS Membership and Leadership Development coaches to grow membership and prepare the next generation of League Leaders. The LWVUS Nominating Committee expanded this theme in recruiting the next group of national board members.

Throughout the Council, we sat in groups with our national Board liaison. South Carolina's liaison is Mary Klentz who helped Peggy Appler and me develop our state action plan. Each state League was asked to spend time during the Council creating a plan for a project they would like to undertake. LWVUS staff was there to offer their expertise in areas such as fundraising, media relations, and program planning.

In our groups we also participated in identifying issues of greatest concern to LWVUS in the coming year (building internal trust, inclusion, serving voters, community outreach, study and action, fundraising, visibility and message) and suggestions for how to meet these challenges. President Elisabeth McNamara presented an overview of the many resources the national League can bring to the table to assist state and local Leagues with their work.

She closed by saying that the power of 2012 was not how the vote turned out, but who turned out to vote. She said that positive social change comes not from a few people doing great things but from many people doing little things. She quoted our first president, Maude Park, who said that as important as women's gaining the right to vote was, it paled in the face of being able to use the vote to achieve a better world. And now—on to the 2014 Convention in Dallas, Texas, moving forward, in League!

# Meet the 2013-2015 LWVSC Board

## **JoAnne Day, LWVSC Co-President.**

JoAnne has been a resident of Columbia, South Carolina for the past twenty-five years. She was born and raised in Pennsylvania and holds degrees from The Ohio State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has spent most of her professional life developing and installing computer software and retired as a Managing Consultant from IBM in 2009. After retirement JoAnne turned her attention to working as a volunteer in the community. A lifelong member of the League, she has served for the past three years as the League Vice President for Issues and Action. She also serves as a trustee of the ETV Endowment of South Carolina and is a docent at the Columbia Museum of Art. A lifelong animal lover she has served on the board of directors of PETS, Inc. and occasionally fosters puppies and dogs from the animal shelter until they find a permanent home.

## **Susan Richards, LWVSC Co-President.**

Susan joined the League in 1996 and served as the Charleston League president from 1998 to 2000. She also served as newsletter editor for 10 years and transportation director on the Charleston board until 2013. Susan has served as transportation director on the board of the SC League of Women Voters for 13 years and in 2011 she became VP of Community Relations.

Susan has been an active advocate for local, state and national transportation issues and spearheaded a two-year statewide transportation study that led to the adoption of transportation as an issue at the 2002 State League convention. She has served on various transportation panels over the years and helped organize the League's sponsorship of two statewide Community Transportation Days in 2008 and 2009.

Susan has over 20 years of experience in the transportation industry and is president of SR Concepts, a woman-owned consulting firm specializing in marketing for transportation agencies. She serves on the American Public Transportation Association's national image campaign and military transportation task forces, is past chair of the APTA Marketing & Communications Steering Committee, and is a member of several state transportation associations. Susan currently serves on the Charleston County Transportation Advisory Board, the Berkeley, Charleston,

Dorchester Council of Governments Enhancement Committee and the CHATS Commuter Rail Steering Committee. She holds an Associate in Arts from the University of Maryland, a Bachelor of Sciences degree from the College of Charleston, and a Masters in Business Administration from the Citadel.

## **Paula Egelson, LWVSC Vice President, Voters Service/Citizen Education.**

In 2011-13 Paula served as LWVSC Board Director for Voter Registration. She is a member of LWV/Charleston Area. Paula is the director of research at the Southern Regional Education Board in Atlanta. She was formerly the director of the Center for Partnerships to Improve Education at the College of Charleston (SC) and director of school improvement at SERVE, the federally funded educational lab serving the Southeast.

Paula has an undergraduate degree in child development, a master's degree in reading education, and a doctorate in educational leadership. She has also worked as a community organizer, a K-8 classroom teacher, and as a reading specialist. She has served as the principal investigator for several large literacy grants. She has a background in research and has developed teacher evaluation, literacy, performance assessment, class-size reduction, school improvement and English language learners products for PreK-12 educators.

## **Lynn Shuler Teague, LWVSC Vice President, Issues and Action.**

Lynn was born in Orangeburg, SC. She moved to New Mexico in 1968 at the time of her marriage to George Teague, and continued her education in New Mexico and Arizona. She was on the faculty of the Arizona State Museum at the UA for many years. In 1975 she became Director of the Museum's Cultural Resource Management Division, which conducted archaeological field research programs. In 1990 she assumed responsibility for administering Arizona's repatriation laws, which provide for the protection of Native American and other historic burials, sacred objects, and sacred places.

After her retirement in 2002 she and her husband returned to South Carolina. She continues her archaeological research on the people of the American Southwest, and has a book on perishable evidence

for the migrations of early Southwestern farmers in press at the University of New Mexico Press. Since her return to South Carolina she has become active in the League of Women Voters and is a member of LWV/Columbia Area. This provides an opportunity to address lifelong concerns about government integrity and social justice in South Carolina. This state is always in need of more of both.

## **Barbara Zia, LWVSC Vice President, Community Relations.**

Barbara served as president of LWVSC from 2007-2011 and co-president from 2011-2013. She was president of the LWV/Charleston Area from 2002 until 2007. She was K-12 Education Director for the LWVSC. She is a retired psychologist and educator with a doctorate in developmental and educational psychology. Her professional experience includes teaching in elementary, preschool and higher education programs, consulting to Head Start, and educational research and evaluation projects. She is active in community service projects, including committees for the Charleston County School District, boards of the LWV in Massachusetts, and Charleston County First Steps. She moved to SC from the Boston area in 2000 and lives in Mt. Pleasant with her husband Bob Zia. They have a son, daughter-in-law and two young grandchildren who live in Georgetown (DC).

## **Keller H. (Bumgardner) Barron, LWVSC Vice President, Member Services.**

Keller returns to the State Board, having never left active participation in the League. She joined the LWV in 1956 after having seen a meeting announcement in the newspaper, served as Columbia president 1963-65, state president 1967-71, and national board 1971-76 where she chaired the LWVUS campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, 1973-76. Keller is active in the LWV/Columbia Area. She was appointed by Governor John West to the State Reorganization Commission and the SC Human Affairs Comm. and served as first woman chair of the SC Committee of the US Commission on Civil Rights, also first Recipient Modjeska Simkins Prize for outstanding work for Social Justice, Civil Rights and Community Understanding. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College,

**LWVSC BOARD:** *continued on page 11 –*



## LWVSC BOARD:

*continued from page 10 –*

History and Political Science. Keller retired as Research Director of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging, SC General Assembly.

### **Terri Eisman, LWVSC Treasurer.**

Terri is a transplant to Greenville from NYC. She has an MBA/Finance from Pace University in NY. For most of her career she has worked as a consultant in business planning. In addition she is currently a tutor in mathematics at Greenville Tech. Terri has been a League member in Greenville County for three years and serves as that League's Treasurer. Terri lives with her cat and dog, and countless foster pets that pass through the house.

### **Aggie Edwards, LWVSC Secretary.**

She was invited by a neighbor to join the LWV and has been a member since 1964. A Social Worker, she recognized that the League was actively working on issues that impacted individual clients and identifiable groups of people. Social Work and the League complement each other and she has been enriched personally and professionally. She has been a member of League in Ohio, Connecticut, and Maryland, was a delegate to the historic San Francisco Convention, and attended several delegate assemblies. Living near Washington, she was part of advocacy efforts on behalf of League. She learned first-hand the power of legislators as well as the power of constituents. In S.C. she served as state Board Secretary and as chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee, as well as local League Secretary and President. She was one of a trio of founding members of the LWV Georgetown County in the early 1980's. Members of the group had all moved from elsewhere and felt the need to continue their previous League experience, and quickly found like-minded people. Moving quite a few times, she always joined her nearest League and felt immediately at home.

### **Shirene Hansotia, LWVSC Director, Criminal Justice.**

She worked in journalism and community/economic development before joining the CIA in 1999. She was an intelligence analyst for ten years. She decided to make one last career change, graduating from Charleston School of Law in 2012. She now clerks for Judge

G. Thomas Cooper, Jr., in Columbia, and is looking forward to working with the League of Women Voters on Criminal Justice issues in the coming years. She is a member of LWV/Charleston Area.

### **Eleanor Hare, LWVSC Director, Web Technology.**

Eleanor is a charter member of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area and is retired from teaching in the Department of Computer Science at Clemson University. She has been active in evaluation of the SC voting system since adoption of the LWV-SC study in 2005 and also co-chairs, with Duncan Buell, the LWV-SC Task Force considering alternatives to our current voting system. She maintains email lists for the State, sending action alerts when requested, is webmaster for her local League and serves on its board.

### **Marty Hucks, LWVSC Director, Healthcare.**

Marty is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Francis Marion University and practices part-time as a nurse practitioner in an internal medicine group. She currently serves on the Board for the Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee and First Steps. She is a volunteer and previous board member at Mercy Medicine Free Clinic. She is a former recipient of the Palmetto Gold (Excellence in Nursing) Award and an Amy V. Cockcroft Leadership Development Fellow. She enjoys cooking, reading, gardening, hiking, drawing, singing in the choir, and kayaking.

### **Sarah E. Leverette, LWVSC Director, State Governance and Judiciary.**

An attorney, educator and community leader, she joined the League of Women Voters over 50 years ago and has served South Carolina's local and state Leagues in leadership roles ever since. She is a member of LWV/Columbia Area. She attended the University of South Carolina and graduated magna cum laude from USC School of Law in 1943. She has been a member of the South Carolina Bar since 1943. One of the state's first women lawyers, Sarah found that having a law degree did not ensure women the opportunity of practicing law. Instead, she began a long career in legal research, starting at the South Carolina Department of Labor. Following her post-graduate work at Columbia University, she returned to the University of South Carolina School of Law as a librarian and instructor,

becoming the first female faculty member at the law school, where she taught from 1947-72. During her tenure there, she was appointed by Governor John C. West to serve on the Committee to Revise the Constitution of South Carolina and wrote the procedural outline for the current method of amending our state constitution. Sarah left the university in the 1970s to serve as commissioner and chairman of the South Carolina Industrial Commission, from which she retired in the 1980s.

### **Jane Pulling, LWVSC Director, Education.**

Jane also serves as Education Director for the LWV/Charleston Area. She is a retired educator with 38 years of service as a teacher, principal, asst. superintendent, and superintendent. She earned her BA and MA at University of Alabama and her Ed.D. from the University of Georgia. She is a native South Carolinian, raised in Summerville and currently residing in Moncks Corner. Married to Verne Pulling, she is the mother of five grown children and six grandsons. She is active in her church chairing the food bank and elderly visitation. She is a Master Gardener with the Clemson Extension Center and also serves as a Guardian Ad Litem in addition to her work with the League. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, knitting, and cooking.

### **Holley Ulbrich, LWVSC Director, State and Local Taxation and Home Rule.**

Holley is a founding member of the LWV/Clemson Area and a past member of the LWVSC Board. An economist and retired Clemson faculty member who works part time at the Strom Thurmond Institute, she has written and spoken extensively on issues of taxation, state budgets, education finance and home rule. She currently serves as vice president for program and action in the Clemson League.

### **Elizabeth Weems, LWVSC Director, Natural Resources.**

Elizabeth, a native South Carolinian, recently moved to Murrells Inlet. She is a member of LWV/Georgetown and chairs that League's leadership team. Previously she lived in Horry County where she chaired the Member at Large Unit. She worked 30 years in the field of psychology (M.A.). She loves to travel and has lived in California, New York City and Atlanta. Elizabeth loves nature, planting long leaf pines on her farm in Horry County and growing vegetables organically.



# LWV SC Voter

Post Office Box 8453  
Columbia, SC 29202

## The SC Voter

Summer 2013  
Volume 63 Issue 1

Established in 1951, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. All members receive the National Voter, the SC Voter, and a newsletter from their local League.

Co-Presidents: JoAnne Day  
Susan Richards

Editor: Laurel Suggs

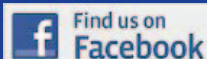
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## Meet The 2013-2015 LWVSC Board



Left to right, seated: Susan Richards, JoAnne Day, Aggie Edwards;  
standing: Shirene Hansotia, Sarah Leverette, Keller Barron, Barbara Zia, Terri Eisman, Lynn Teague, Paula Egelson, Elizabeth Weems, Jane Pulling, Eleanor Hare. Missing were Marty Hucks, Sheila Gallagher, Holley Ulbrich.



[http://www.facebook.com/pages/  
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South-Carolina/251544131543145](http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-South-Carolina/251544131543145)

## IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES:

### August

24th Saturday, *League Leaders Day* - 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1715 Bull St., Columbia.

26th *Women's Equality Day*

### September

17th *Constitution Day*

21st Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., *LWVSC Board Meeting*, Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia.\*

24th Tuesday, *National Voter Registration Day* (<http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/about>)

*\* All members of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina are welcome to attend LWVSC board meetings.*