



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

SC Voter

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LWVSC IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Judicial Diversity & Independence



On Nov. 15, LWV/Greenville County launched its Judicial Independence and Diversity website (<http://greenvilleco.sc.lwvnet.org/judicialinitiative.html>) with a program at Furman University. The event featured an address by Malia Reddick, Dir. of Judicial Programs at the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal Studies in Denver. From left, Prof. Teresa Cosby, Furman; Peggy Brown, LWVSC Co-President; Zaida Arguedas, LWVUS Deputy Exec. Dir.; Malia Reddick; Barbara Zia, LWVSC Co-President; Jean Wood and Rebecca Lambert, LWV/Greenville County Co-Presidents.

IMMIGRATION

LWVSC participates in the South Carolina Hispanic Alliance, along with non-partisan civil rights and Hispanic advocacy groups.

This letter from LWVSC was published in several state newspapers in December.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina realizes and respects that we all want secure borders and want everyone coming into the US to do so legally; however, we believe there are more respectful and humane ways to deal with immigrants other than individual state laws such as Senate Bill 20.

The LWVSC views immigration as a Federal issue and that all immigration laws need to come from Congress. The League

of Women Voters US Immigration position contains measures to strengthen borders, keep families together, provide for law-abiding, unauthorized persons to become citizens and deportation of criminal immigrants only. LWVUS positions are reached through a process of consensus by our 850 grassroots local Leagues, following a careful and thorough two-year, evidence-based study.

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Co-President's Perspectives:

New Year greetings! 2012 will be challenging for the League as we work to ensure that the year is filled with "great days" for all South Carolinians.

December 23 was truly a great day if you are one of the hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians who will be allowed to vote as usual in the 2012 elections. The news from the Department of Justice (DOJ) must have been welcomed with great relief by low-income and elderly voters and by students throughout the state who do not own a photo ID required to vote. Luckily for South Carolina, the DOJ blocked South Carolina's voter - identification law, saying it discriminates against minorities and would disenfranchise many voters.

However, it is quite clear that the decision is not the last we will hear on attempts to suppress voters in our state. State officials have pledged to fight DOJ's decision. The S.C. Attorney General's office say they are moving forward with plans to file an appeal in late January.

Make no mistake about it: Despite portrayals in the national media and punditry of pitched partisan battles over voting laws, the League is committed to engaging each and every eligible citizen – from all racial/ethnic groups and political affiliations – in our nation's democratic process and making sure that their votes are counted fairly and accurately.

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara expressed well the challenges facing the League in a recent Leaders Update," We know that state legislatures will be coming back into session next year, and efforts will be renewed to require voter ID, curb early voting and discourage groups like the League from registering voters. We, who understand the importance of full participation, must continue to

oppose these efforts in every way possible. Whatever barriers the states throw up, we must work to overcome them. We know this is an organized effort, but regardless of who is behind it or what is motivating it, we must be just as organized and just as determined to make the process work for every voter and to make every vote count."

Our state and local Leagues have been in the forefront: beating back South Carolina's voter photo ID legislation for three years in the state legislature; and then, after the law's ratification last May, opposing implementation through the federal Voting Rights Act Section Five pre-clearance process, and ongoing citizen education about possible changes in voting procedures. We applaud the tireless efforts made by many members – such as LWVSC advocacy director Carole Cato, LWV/Greenville County leaders Terri Eisman and Ted Volskay, LWV/Georgetown County Ralph Edwards, and all others who are working on this issue.

Now we challenge you again: Roll up your sleeves, register new voters, host candidate debates and forums, and mobilize voters for the 2012 elections! All local Leagues are encouraged to apply for grant funds from the state League to take part in the Youth Voter Registration Project that targets our future voters who are in high school or alternative/vocational schools. Read more about the project in this issue.

The 2012 elections are very important for all Americans. In addition to voting for a president, South Carolinians will vote in critical elections for U.S. Congress, the General Assembly and many local offices. We have witnessed how our state's



Peggy Brown
Co-President, LWVSC

revenue decline and tax policies are constraining the ability of state and local governments to fund services that are priorities for the LWVSC, such as education, child welfare, juvenile and adult justice, transportation, environmental protection. All continue to be underfunded.

At a time when the public arena seems incapable of civil discourse among political partisans, it is imperative that we model good citizenship through our communication with one another and with our elected officials. And then that we communicate in the most basic American way – through casting our ballots. In order for democracy to work we must go to the polls, take one or two registered voter friends, and VOTE for the candidates of our choice.

In 2012, Barbara and I wish you and your loved ones health and happiness, as well as victories for the democratic values we as League members hold dear.

LWVSC Audit Report

This is to certify that I have examined the accounts (checking, savings, Education Fund) for the League of Women Voters of South Carolina from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 and found all to be in order with no discrepancies.

Frances L. Elmore, LWV Florence Area Co-President



LWVSC Receives Youth Voter Registration Grant From The LWV Education Fund

By Paula Egelson, PhD, LWVSC Director, Voter Registration

In December 2011 the LWVSC received notification that it had been awarded a \$4,000 youth voter registration grant from the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF). All local Leagues in the state are eligible to apply for a portion of this funding to support youth registration efforts in their communities from January to June 2012.

The LWVEF's Youth Voter Registration project aims to engage high school, community college, and/or vocational underrepresented students in the electoral process in order to address the fact that more than half of all 18-year-old citizens in the United States were not registered to vote in 2008. Disparities in youth voting grow wider when examining African-American, Latinos and those with no college experience. LWVEF is providing funding and materials for local Leagues to use during youth voter registration activities in schools during spring semester 2012.

The LWV of South Carolina has made a commitment to register eligible students in at least 60 high schools across the state, and we are sure we can surpass this goal!

IMMIGRATION:

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LWV champions due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment. The LWVUS criteria for legal admission to the U.S. include family reunification of spouses or minor children; economic needs in the U.S.; political persecution or humanitarian crises; and studying in the U.S.

As informed, voting citizens, we support laws that represent our family and community values. Let's remember America is mostly made up of immigrants. Senate Bill 20 is affecting families and individuals, who for many decades have

2012 ELECTION DATES

- **Republican Presidential Primary** - January 21
- **Democratic Presidential Primary** - None
- **State Primary** - June 12
- **State Primary Runoffs** - June 26
- **General Election** - November 6

Republican Presidential Primary--Any registered voter may vote, but anyone voting in this primary is excluded from serving as a delegate to the 2012 Democratic Convention in Charlotte, NC. Voting in this primary has no effect on voting in other primaries.

Mail-in Absentee Ballots may be used to vote in all primaries and elections. This method provides voters with a real paper trail, but instructions on the ballot must be followed exactly. After mailing in their ballots, voters can check the status of their vote at http://www.scvotes.org/south_carolina_voting_information_page.

2012 GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FILING

- **Partisan Candidate Filing Period** - Noon, March 16
Noon, March 30
- **Petition Candidate Filing Deadline** - Noon, July 16

Training opportunities for participating local leagues will take place beginning in late January 2012. If you would more

information about this project, please contact Paula Egelson (paulaserv@aol.com) or Laurel Suggs (lsuggs@imgsc.com).

helped put fresh food on our tables for a very low price. Theses are good people who want a chance to live a better life for themselves and their families. Please join the League in opposing the harsh measures of Senate Bill 20 and in looking for more humane solutions for immigrants.

Voter Photo ID

On Dec. 23, the U.S. Department of Justice blocked South Carolina's discriminatory voter identification law from implementation, helping ensure thousands of eligible voters will be able to exercise their right to vote. The LWVSC, along with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Brennan Center for Justice, the ACLU and Charleston attorney Armand

Derfner, submitted two comment letters to DOJ opposing pre-clearance. The letters demonstrated that the law would have placed a greater burden on minority citizens than white citizens. DOJ's refusal to pre-clear the law comes as no surprise, as the law is clearly unnecessary and would suppress the voting rights of minorities. The state plans to challenge the ruling in U.S. District Court in Washington, DC. But for the time bring, there is no change in the identification that South Carolinians will need to produce to vote.

Copies of comment letters submitted by LWVSC, as well as DOJ's Dec. 23rd letter denying pre-clearance to South Carolina's voter id law can be found at <http://lwwvsc.org/voterphotoid.html>.



Tax Reform: *Is It Doable in 2012?*

By Holley Ulbrich, PhD, LWVSC Director, State and Local Taxation

2012 is going to be a difficult year to get any serious tax reform through the General Assembly, because all 170 senators and representatives will be up for re-election. But there is one thing that we can encourage them to do, and that's to make a concerted effort to collect taxes that are already on the books. By far the largest source of uncollected taxes is the use tax, the companion to sales tax, that is owed on purchase via catalog and internet – mostly internet. Internet sellers with a physical presence in the state are required to collect the tax – WalMart, Target, Sears, Barnes and Noble, and many others. (That issue was part of the amazon.com battle this year.) But other internet firms are not required to collect taxes on internet purchases from South Carolina residents. Sure, you are invited to declare your out-of-state purchases on your income tax form every year and pay the tax, but that approach has been pretty ineffective.

What's the obstacle? Congress. A Supreme Court decision in the 1990s affirmed that Congress had the power, under the interstate commerce clause, to require internet firms to collect and remit sales tax. Congress has refused to act. Internet vendors argue that they have to

charge for shipping, but the items we buy in local stores have to be shipped there too, and shipping is reflected in the price. Local retailers also have higher overhead of more floor space and clerks in order to provide the convenience of personal service and inspecting (and even trying on) your purchase before you buy. Internet vendors also argue that it's too complicated to comply with different sales taxes in all 50 states, but in fact there is software that can calculate taxes very easily for each destination.

Competition from internet vendors who don't have to charge consumers the tax is unfair to our local retailers on Main Street and in malls. These retailers are paying property taxes, income taxes, and business license fees, and if internet competition drives them out of business, it affects other state and local revenue, not just sales tax. The sales tax falls primarily on the consumer, not the seller who is just the collection agent. So people who buy on the internet and don't pay sales taxes are not contributing their fair share of the cost of state and local public services. It's likely that many of those who are evading these sales taxes are higher income households, because they are more likely

to use the internet. That means that failing to collect taxes on internet purchases also makes our sales tax more regressive.

The Multistate Tax Commission has been working with states for many years to try to get Congress to lift the restrictions on internet taxation. So what can we as South Carolinians do? We can urge our members of Congress to act. It's a way of providing more revenue to cash-poor states without giving them more federal aid. It's also a way of ensuring fair competition between in-state and out-of-state sellers, and making sure that all our residents pay their fair share of the sales tax. We can also urge our state legislators to work with our Congressional delegation to try to close this big gap in our state's sales tax revenue, which supports schools and the General Fund and, in 29 counties, city and county governments.

This is not a new tax, or a tax increase. It's just a way to make sure that states can collect the taxes that they are already owed. If citizens and in-state retailers make enough noise, maybe we can make a change that is fair to all concerned and provides some of the funds we need to pay for education and other public services.

Nuclear Issues: *Status of Update of Mary Kelly's Nuclear Activities Report; Possibility of Commercial Spent Fuel Storage at SRS*

By Suzanne Rhodes, LWVSC Off-Board Director, Nuclear Waste

The LWVSC has been observing and educating members and the public about nuclear issues, particularly activities at the Savannah River Site (SRS), since the 1970s. At that time, Mary Kelly, the state League's nuclear specialist who holds a Ph.D. in chemistry, used her professional skills to urge federal involvement in the management of nuclear wastes. Foremost among her concerns was the liquid waste in leaking tanks that were the legacy of Department of Energy weapons management. Her efforts on behalf of the League ultimately led Governor Dick Riley, working with other concerned

governors and the South Carolina delegation, to push a variety of federal laws to manage nuclear waste. Much of the waste at SRS has been managed, but the most difficult waste remains and continues to leak. Closure of the site may take two more decades.

An update of Mary Kelly's Nuclear Waste Issue Brief, first published in 1997, will be released this October and will emphasize SRS progress and potential problems. The LWVSC has worked for over two years on this update. We are very proud of Mary's work and will pay tribute to her hard work and public service in the update.

In 1995, LWVUS opposed using Yucca Mountain as a permanent repository for nuclear waste, based on lack of safety reviews. Despite decades of documented concerns presented by the State of Nevada, Congress made a political decision making Nevada the nation's first waste repository.

In 2010, the Obama administration used its budgetary powers to halt the Yucca Mountain site and appointed the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (BRC), which presented its draft report this summer. A final report will be released next January.

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LWVSC Co-Sponsors Panel on “Fitness To Practice” at Charleston Law Review Symposium

- **Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012
- **Location:** Charleston School of Law, Charleston
- **Event:** Panel Discussion
- **Partners:** The Charleston Law Review and the Riley Institute at Furman

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina will co-sponsor the panel “Fitness to Practice: What It Means for Attorneys and the Judicial System” at the 4th annual Law & Society Symposium in Charleston. This year’s Symposium topic is “The Role of Government.” The symposium opens with a keynote address by A.E. Dick Howard, the White Burkett Miller Professor of Law and Public Affairs at the University of Virginia School of Law, on February 9, at 5 pm. The symposium continues on February 10, at 8:30 am with panels focusing on campaign finance reform, immigration and states’ rights, and same-sex marriage.

The LWVSC-sponsored panel will

begin at 2:45 pm on Friday and consider the issue of “fitness to practice” as it impacts the judicial selection system in South Carolina. Bobby Harrell, Speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives, will give introductory remarks. Confirmed panelists include John Freeman, Professor Emeritus of the University of South Carolina and Member, Judicial Merit Selection Commission; John Davis Harrell, Member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission; State Rep. David J. Mack III, Member of the S.C. Judicial Merit Selection Commission; and Frances P. Segars-Andrews, former S.C. family court judge. Professor Constance Anastopoulo, Charleston School of Law

and LWV/Charleston Area, will moderate.

Tuition for the symposium is \$125 with CLE credit. Register early for a discounted tuition of \$100 with CLE credit. To qualify for discounted tuition, early registrations must be received by January 20, 2012. Attendance with no CLE credit is free. Payment must be made by check payable to the Charleston School of Law. The symposium qualifies for 7.25 CLE credits in South Carolina, including 1.25 hour of ethics credits. To register or for additional information, contact Professor Sheila B. Scheuerman at sscheuerman@charlestonlaw.edu or 843.377.2443.

NUCLEAR ISSUES:

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This report and others, including draft committee reports, meeting records, and comments from the concerned public, are available at <http://brc.gov>.

The BRC Draft report recommendations include, among many others, the establishment of one or more Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities (CISFs) and a new single-purpose organization to develop and implement a focused, integrated program for the

transportation, storage and disposal of nuclear waste in the United States.

The LWVSC intends to voice its concern regarding the proposal for one or more CISFs for commercial spent fuel to be located in South Carolina, in part because SRS supporters have “invited” commercial spent fuel to SRS. This invitation is linked to a very optimistic vision of commercial spent fuel reprocessing and future jobs. Strong opposition to a CISF from other regions of South Carolina can be anticipated, as in other states, because of the perception that

a CISF would become permanent. Such a proposal can be expected to be expensive, divisive and extraordinarily difficult to implement at any location. Wastes at SRS and other federal and commercial sites require important investments in the coming decades. Since funds will be limited, near-term emphasis should be on closing aging facilities and continuing the development of safer waste forms, not on new temporary site development and unnecessary transportation.



Major Victory for SC's Isolated Wetlands

By Amy E. Armstrong, SC Environmental Law Project President; LWV/Georgetown County Member

For ten years the environmental community has fought for statewide protections for isolated wetlands, wetlands that are not adjacent or connected to navigable waters. This fight was necessitated by a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2001 that removed federal Clean Water Act protection for so-called "isolated wetlands." South Carolina has between 300,000-600,000 acres of isolated wetlands that are considered "isolated" and outside of federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction.

Legislative attempts achieve protection for isolated wetlands through either a statute or a regulatory program for isolated wetlands failed after negotiations broke down. SCELPA, in collaboration with our State's environmental groups, agreed that an alternative to legislative proposals would be to bring a legal challenge under the S.C. Pollution Control Act to establish the requirement for a state permit to fill isolated wetlands, which are considered waters of the State.

In 2007, members of the Georgetown County League of Women Voters contacted SCELPA and notified us about clearing and filling activity occurring on a small lot in Pawleys Island. SCELPA filed a case against the owner of the lot, Smith Land Company, shortly after learning of the fill and destruction of part of a pond and wetland on the 0.332-acre lot. The pond and wetland on the lot are part of one of the unique wetland bodies often referred to as a Carolina Bay. The 0.19-acre wetland section of the property consisted of vegetated wetlands and a pond. Smith Land Company cleared the lot, brought in truckloads of dirt and completely filled the wetlands and pond without receiving a permit from DHEC. On behalf of the League of Women Voters, SCELPA challenged the action arguing that the Pollution Control Act requires a permit before discharging materials into the wetlands, which are waters of the State.

The wetlands on the property were delineated as "isolated" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, meaning that no federal Clean Water Act permit is required. Smith Land Company argued, and the



circuit court agreed, that DHEC similarly did not have jurisdiction to regulate isolated wetlands.

DHEC derives authority to regulate wetlands from the South Carolina Pollution Control Act (the Act). S.C. Environmental Law Project attorneys Amy Armstrong and Jimmy Chandler argued that the Act and its regulations require a permit before filling isolated wetlands. The circuit court rejected this argument and also held that the citizens groups did not have a right to bring an action under the Pollution Control Act.

On July 11, 2011, the South Carolina Supreme Court issued a landmark opinion declaring that S.C. law requires protection of isolated wetlands, and that a citizens group has a right to enforce those protections. In the opinion, League of Women Voters of Georgetown County v. Smith Land Company, our State's highest Court reversed a lower court order and ruled that the Pollution Control Act authorizes private enforcement actions, that the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has jurisdiction under the Act over isolated wetlands, and that Smith Land Company violated the Act.

The S.C. Supreme Court first held that

DHEC does have jurisdiction to regulate isolated wetlands on the property. The Court noted that while the U.S. Supreme Court has held that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not have jurisdiction to regulate isolated wetlands under the Clean Water Act, this has no impact on DHEC's ability to do so. The Court found that DHEC has jurisdiction to regulate isolated wetlands based on the clear language in the Pollution Control Act, which defines waters subject to regulation.

Given that DHEC has jurisdiction over the wetlands, the Court next held that Smith Land Company was required to get a permit from DHEC before filling the wetlands. The Court cited the Pollution Control Act as imposing a permit requirement prior to discharging into wetlands. Smith Land Company violated South Carolina law by filling isolated wetlands without a valid state permit.

Finally, the Court held that the Pollution Control Act provides a private right of action. In other words, private citizens can sue to enforce the provisions of the Act. The Court interpreted the intent of the Legislature as evidenced in the Act and found that the League had standing on the basis of the harm to its individual members' aesthetic and recreational interests.



WETLANDS:

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In sum, the Supreme Court's order provides important protections to our State's ecologically diverse and valuable "isolated" wetlands. Carolina Bays are only one example of the unique ecosystems that can be found in such wetlands. Prior to filling in any isolated wetlands in the State, a Pollution Control Act is now required. The Court's order also struck down what would have been a significant obstacle to those citizens seeking environmental accountability in this State. The Supreme Court's opinion leaves no doubt that the Pollution Control Act opens the door for private citizens to enforce its terms. SCELPA's Amy Armstrong said the case is a "landmark decision establishing protections for isolated wetlands throughout the State, and mandating that a State permit be obtained prior to filling any of our State's unique and essential wetland resources."

Natural Resources News

By Jan Hammett, LWVSC Director, Natural Resources

Without a doubt, 2012 will bring new natural resources challenges and resurface older, unsettled ones. As the League of Women Voters continues to protect the environment and the public's health, knowledge and a focused, strong advocacy will be needed to make a difference. One such way is to take part in the 2012 South Carolina Conservation Common Agenda process brought to us by the Conservation Voters of South Carolina.

Major 2012 Common Agenda priorities are:

- Conservation Bank (extension of Sunset provision and protection of funding)
- Pollution Control Act (defend against rollbacks of wetlands protection)
- Comprehensive Clean Energy Legislation (support clean energy and solar incentives)
- Natural Resource Agency Funding (support budget requests of agencies)
- ABC Recycling (create a statewide recycling program for restaurants and bars)
- DOT Reform (encourage a fix-it-first policy)

2012 LWVSC Conservation Lobby Day Is February 28th

As a Conservation Common Agenda Coalition member, LWVSC is assigned a special lobby day at the Statehouse. The 2012 LWVSC Lobby Day will be Tuesday, February 28, 11 am-3 pm. We invite you to join us at the State House to share with legislators why you feel it's important to protect SC's clean land, air, energy and water.

Volunteers are not expected to be experts on all these issues. We will review the top legislative issues with you beforehand, and conservation lobbyists are available to answer any questions you may have. The main purpose of the day is to build better relationships with legislators. As a participant you are expected to engage in more "small talk" and polite conversation about why a clean environment is important to you, rather than give your legislators detailed explanations about a bill.

If you would like to participate in Lobby Day or learn more about the Common Agenda process, please contact Chester Sansbury (803-750-6901; csansbury1@sc.rv.com) or Jan (864-583-9496; jjhammett7@att.net).

Congratulations to the EPA for new clean air rules, limiting mercury, arsenic and other toxic pollutants in our air, water and food. EPA administrator Lisa Jackson called the first-ever Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, or MATS, for power plant emissions a "great victory for public health, especially the health of our children." That is significant, considering between 300,000 and 600,000 of the 4 million babies born in the U.S. each year are exposed to significant amounts of the neurotoxin mercury while in the womb. These babies suffer losses of IQ, according to Dr. Philip Landrigan, chairman of the department of preventative medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

This is a win for the EPA, a win for the League of Women Voters and the "Clean Air Promise" and a win for all Americans.



New on the LWVSC Team

Last fall brought some changes to the LWVSC Board

Dr. Martha Hurley was appointed Criminal/Juvenile Justice Director, to fill the position held by Dr. Robin Kimbrough-Melton who is moving to Denver. The LWVSC accepted Robin's resignation regretfully and thanked her for her leadership at its December 2nd meeting. Robin and Martha have been working together and meeting with League partners on justice issues in South Carolina.

Martha received her doctorate in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati in 2000 and has more than 15 years of experience working in the field. She is currently an Associate Professor at The Citadel in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice. She also worked as a Senior Researcher for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and served as a research analyst and facilitator of group sessions for a community-based juvenile program. She has conducted presentations and published articles in the areas of evidence-based correctional practice, corrections change management, risk and needs assessment, prisoner reentry and program evaluation.

Martha is a strong community advocate for youth and ex-offenders. She currently works with community groups in the Charleston area to implement programs that reduce the barriers faced by prisoners returning to society and that positively impact the lives of at-risk youth through the development of community-based

programs. She is an LWV/Charleston Area member and serves on her local League's membership committee.

Martha can be reached at 843-755-9823 (cell) or hurlme@hotmail.com (email).

Donna Ambrose was appointed Transportation Director, taking over for Susan Richards who serves as VP/Community Relations. Donna is a member of LWV/Charleston Area who moved from Seattle. She began her career writing sales promotion, market research studies and advertising copy for major corporate and retail clients of top NYC-based magazine and advertising companies.

Upon moving to the Seattle area, she applied the efficiencies of private sector business models to public transit to improve customer service and reduce costs. Donna formed a transportation consulting business and joined forces with a Las Vegas ad agency to develop marketing and customer service material for Clark County, NV's first public transit system. Within 2 years, Donna had offices in WA state and NJ and expanded to include local political and tax campaigns.

In WA State, she launched a CTR non-profit corporation with board members from Microsoft, SAFECO, Nintendo, Eddie Bauer, Allied Signal, Group Health, and others. The company served more than 40,000 employees; developed the first dynamic internet ridematching system.

Donna served as Communications

Director/Management Analyst for an elected County Executive. She managed countywide public affairs and media relations; authored positioning statements, budget speeches, press releases, and state-of-the-county addresses. As Economic Development Program Manager she managed the county's business development, retention, and expansion programs for aerospace, biomedical device, agriculture, and tourism industries, and its \$31 million budget.

Donna has a MA in Policy Studies from the University of Washington, WA and a BA in Business Administration from Caldwell College, NJ, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She is a Board member of Solar Pie, a private non-profit organization to educate and promote solar energy in the U.S., and a business advisor for the new Women's Business Center established by the Center for Women, in Charleston.

Contact Donna at 206-755-9823 (cell) or ambrose.donna.v2@gmail.com (email).

Please join us in welcoming these talented new directors to the LWVSC Board!

We wish Robin great success in her new home in Denver and hope her work brings her to South Carolina often. You can stay in touch with her at RKIMBRO@clemsun.edu.

SAVE THE DATE:

The 2012 LWVSC Council Meeting will be Saturday, April 14,
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1715 Bull St., Columbia.

Join Leaguers from across the state for an exciting day of learning and fun. Members will receive details via email, the Spring SC VOTER and www.LWVSC.org.



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Website: www.lwvsc.org

Join the League today!

In Memoriam

BARBARA W. MOXON

• 1921-2011 •

FORMER LWVSC AND LWV/COLUMBIA AREA PRESIDENT

By Sarah Leverette, LWVSC Board of Directors; Barbara's long time friend and colleague

Barbara Moxon – a rare spirit for all time – a gracious lady endowed with a depth of compassion, undaunted courage and a passion for “doing all things good” to make the world a better place in which to live.

Dedicated to the service of her fellow man and humbly choosing to serve rather than to be served, her delicate but firm footprint is a mirror reflection of her life and faith. Her devotion to the cause of justice and to the welfare of others has left an indelible imprint upon the religious, social and governmental fabric of our state and nation.

Barbara was born in Philadelphia. As a 1943 M.S. Graduate of the School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Phi Beta Kappa, and President of the Women's Student Government Association, her skills and talents were honed to perfection preparing her for a life of dedicated service.

After several years as a family social worker, she moved with her husband Bob, a Navy physician from Philadelphia to Virginia, Maryland, Hawaii, back to Virginia and then to Columbia, SC in 1963. Introduced to the League of Women Voters by her new friend Keller Bumgardner Barron, she quickly became an outstanding leader in the causes of social justice and fair government. As a professional volunteer and activist her efforts were focused largely on improving the lives of the women and families of South Carolina.

Her spirit, tenacity and perseverance in working for the causes in which she so faithfully believed were a source of inspiration and gave added meaning to the mission and goals of the many organizations in which she served and led.

Barbara served in many leadership positions including the LWVSC (president, 1971-1976), the American Association of University Women, the Killingsworth Home for Women in Crisis, Planned



Barbara and Bob Moxon

Parenthood Health Systems, Advocates for Comprehensive Health Education, Common Cause of S.C., S.C. Christian Action Council, ERA South Carolina, S.C. Advocates for Women on Boards and Commissions, and Chair of the S. C. Commission on Women.

As a member of St. Paul's Luthera Church she served as a choir member, Sunday School teacher and president of the Women of the ELCA. Her faith was her guide.

In recognition of her service she received many awards and honors on both the state and national level:

- 1990-Awarded honorary Doctor of Laws by Newberry College
- 1996-Awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Jim Hodges
- 1995-96-Featured in the LWV National Traveling Exhibit “Women In Action”

In her honor the LWVSC and Planned Parenthood established the Barbara W. Moxon Advocacy Award to deserving recipients.

First in her heart was her family, Bob and children Pete, Chris, and Laurel, 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. The love and care she gave to her family was reciprocated in the love, pride and support they gave to her.

Barbara's life and work are measured not only by the grateful hearts of those who knew her but also by those who are the unknowing beneficiaries of her lifetime efforts on their behalf. The heritage she bequeaths remains timeless. We are grateful that she lived among us.

Our memorial to Barbara is the promise to follow in her footsteps with the compassion, courage and diligence she exhibited during her time with us.

Thank you, Barbara.



State's Medicaid Transportation Broker System Needs Revisions

By Donna Ambrose, LWVSC Director, Transportation

Once again, the law of unintended consequences rears an ugly head. This time, the situation is the result of South Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and their outsourcing/privatization of broker call-center and schedule services for the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), provided for Medicaid eligible recipients.

Specifically, two distinct negative impacts have resulted since the start of DHHS's brokering of the NEMT services in 2007:

First, poor Broker management performance has some Medicaid eligible recipients are experiencing call and schedule delays, transportation service reductions and loss of access to transportation services. The result is that the people who have few or no transportation options may no longer count on the NEMT services to get them to the doctors and critical care (such as dialysis) they need to maintain their health.

Second, our state's local transportation providers, many of them public transit organizations, are being hammered by the Brokers to accept rates so low that they

cannot provide the NEMT service without a financial loss. Given the situation, these transportation providers have only two options; either continue to perform the service and slowly hemorrhage money, or stop contracting for the service all together. The problem is that the outcome affects us all.

Either choice results in cuts to commuter and rural transportation service which can serve to create gaps in SC's entire transportation system. Here's why. As a matter of sound management practice, many transportation systems use multiple revenue sources, such as that previously generated by providing NEMT service, as match for federal grants that support and expand commuter and rural bus and paratransit service.

The Brokering/privatizing of the NEMT program by DHHS, in and of itself does not mean that it cannot work. Most likely, the reason DHHS wanted to hire a Broker is to be more cost effective and efficient, a critical need not only during a recession, but also at a time when a future rise in the need for NEMT service is being forecast, due to aging of the general population.

Most likely, the general thinking was that there is not enough staff to do the job adequately in-house and, just maybe, staff can be cut if the NEMT service is outsourced. The problem arises when a department does not fully recognize that in services as complex as this, it can take at least as much, if not more oversight to ensure the quality of the service is high and that the standards of operations meet all State and Federal regulatory requirements.

Given that privatizing means a profit margin must be added to the cost of providing a service that is known – in this instance, to lose money– it makes all the more sense that DHHS question hard and fully understand the business model that the Broker is operating from and be prepared, once hired, for extensive oversight and monitoring.

As they say, it can all get lost in the details. Unfortunately, in the instance of today's NEMT Brokering situation, those details can do infinite harm to those needing transportation to critical medical care and to our state's transportation system.

"PATRIOCRACY"

Just Released Film about the US Political Divide and Possible Solutions

A new documentary, "Patriocracy" (www.patriocracymovie.com/) offers a non-partisan examination of the Washington dysfunction and hyper-partisanship undermining America's ability to tackle its most serious problems. Since the movie offers a compelling backdrop to the election year ahead, the LWVUS is partnering with the Leagues of both New Hampshire and South Carolina to show this film just prior to the presidential primaries in these states. The South Carolina showing took place on January 18th in Columbia. It was

followed by a panel event featuring LWVUS Pres. Elisabeth MacNamara, former Congressman John Spratt (D); former Attorney General Henry McMaster (R); veteran CNN correspondent and USC College of Journalism and Mass Communications Dean Charles Bierbauer; Greater Columbia Community Relations Council Dir. Lee Catoe; Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Pres. and CEO Ike McLeese, and filmmaker Brian Malone.

Local Leagues are urged to sponsor their own public showings of this film. Contact Brian Malone, the producer

and head of **Malone Media Group, LLC**, directly at brian@malonetv.com or 303-888-9649. There will be a small charge depending on the screening venue and the audience size. Brian Malone is a five-time Emmy® Award winner and has produced more than a dozen independent documentaries for broadcast and cable. His programs have aired nationally on PBS and cable networks, covering the gamut from Grammy-Award-Winning recording artists, to environmental issues, to Native American culture.



Conservation is South Carolina's Business Natural Resources Enrich Our Economy

*We can grow jobs that stay here by building on our natural and human assets:
clean water, fertile farms, bountiful forests and energy entrepreneurs.*

CLEAN ENERGY FUELS NEW INVESTMENTS – South Carolina has no coal, no uranium and no natural gas. We can reduce the billions of dollars that we send out of state for energy by adopting policies to promote “Clean Energy Independence.”

We need to adopt realistic renewable energy goals for utilities and provide them cost recovery mechanisms to be successful. Promoting energy efficiency policies would save customers billions of dollars while creating 22,000 new jobs by 2025, the equivalent of bringing six new Boeing plants to our State. We should also update building energy codes to the 2009 IECC standard and increase the solar tax credit from 25% to 35% to keep us competitive with neighboring states. Measures to enable greater utility investment in research and development efforts related to offshore wind could bring up to 20,000 manufacturing jobs and \$80 billion in revenue to the state by 2030.

NATURAL RESOURCES ARE PRICELESS – Forestry, agriculture, outdoor recreation and tourism are big business in South Carolina: \$54 billion or one-third of the economy. That's over 450,000 jobs, or 25% of our jobs – more than manufacturing and construction combined.

A little investment goes a long way. The combined budgets of the state **Agriculture Department, Forestry Commission, Department of Natural Resources and Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism** account for less than one percent of the state budget. Businesses benefit from agency expertise, public/private partnerships and the federal funds that agencies attract. While we continue to press for more accountability and transparency for the DHEC permitting process, we believe it is critical to

adequately fund DHEC to monitor clean air and water and ensure public health.

The **Conservation Bank** has protected more than 156,000 acres of our state's family farms, working forests, parks, historic sites and recreational streams at the bargain price of \$534 per acre. Places for outdoor recreation, such as hiking, hunting and fishing, create a high quality of life that attracts tax-paying businesses and residents to our communities. The Bank's work is not complete but unless legislation passes the Senate this year to extend the Conservation Bank's "sunset" to 2023, it will cease to exist in 2013.

RECYCLING GROWS JOBS – The Alcoholic Beverage Container Recycling bill will provide a sustainable stream of plastic, glass, corrugated cardboard and aluminum that will attract more processors and manufacturers to South Carolina.

New businesses, tourists and patrons of restaurants and bars expect and appreciate recycling. It's a \$52 million dollar opportunity for South Carolina, annually. Implementing recycling plans in restaurants and bars will reduce landfilling and grow our recycling rate from 22% to within reach of the state's 35% goal. The cost is comparable to the price of sending waste to landfills and the benefits are proven: in 2009, the recycling industry created 1,354 new jobs and had an economic impact of \$6.5 billion (Clemson study). The ABC Recycling bill has already passed the Senate with modifications that work for any size ABC permit holder, anywhere in South Carolina.

TRANSPORTATION MOVES BUSINESS – SCDOT spends over a billion dollars in taxpayer funds each year, yet there is a 20-year backlog of maintenance and repair needs for our aging roads and bridges throughout the State.

We need legislation requiring that all funding decisions, even those of the State Infrastructure Bank, be subject to objective, criteria-based prioritization and a "fix it first" approach. Our roads are the 6th most dangerous in the country. We need a statutory commitment to allocate the lion's share of funding to maintenance and repair of the roads and bridges that facilitate trade and commerce. In order to better manage DOT as a business, the commissioners should be appointed in a way that increases their level of expertise and fiscal responsibility. Given our pressing needs, it is not acceptable for DOT to deplete its fund balance to the point that it can't even pay its contractors, or address emergency needs.

WATER IS "SAVINGS IN THE BANK" – We must be good stewards of our natural Carolina Bays, groundwater and wetlands because they protect water quality and wildlife habitat, and provide flood control, filtration and storage.

The Supreme Court recently ruled that the historic Pollution Control Act of 1972 guarantees that citizens have a say in what happens to the water they depend on for recreation, drinking and their livelihood. The decision requires a permit to discharge pollutants into ground and surface water, including state wetlands, and would protect hundreds of square miles of Carolina Bays and wetlands all over South Carolina that are currently at risk. It is important to uphold the Pollution Control Act in order to protect our valuable waters, allow citizens to protect themselves from pollution, and to prevent DHEC from entering into private deals that allow polluters to damage water resources without public participation in the decision.

The conservation community is working together to create a healthy future for all South Carolinians.



LWV SC Voter

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The SC Voter

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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.

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IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES:



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-South-Carolina/251544131543145>

January

- 21st** Saturday, *Republican Presidential Primary Election*
- 25th** Wednesday, 9-10 am, Blatt Building, Room 110, 1105 Pendleton St., Columbia, *House Conservation Briefing "Conserving Communities...naturally." Hosted by House Majority Leader, Rep. Kenneth Bingham and House Minority Leader, Rep. Harry Ott*
- 31st** Tuesday, *LWVUS Online Membership Count deadline*

February

Black History Month & Youth Voter Month

- 4th** Saturday, 10 a.m.-3p.m., *LWVSC Board Meeting*, 1600 St. Julian Place, Columbia *
- 14th** Tuesday, *92nd Anniversary of LWV's founding*
- 20th** Monday, *Presidents Day*
- 28th** Tuesday, *LWVSC Conservation Lobby Day*, Statehouse, Columbia

March

Women's History Month

- 8th** Thursday, *International Women's Day*
- 12th-18th**
Sunshine Week, a national initiative to foster dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information
- 15th** Tuesday, *Filing opens for SC party primary candidates*
- 16th** Noon-30th, *South Carolina Partisan Candidate Filing Period for 2012 General Election*

April

- 7th** *World Health Day*
- 9th-15th** *National Volunteer Week*
- 14th** Saturday, 9:30 am-3 pm, *LWVSC Council Meeting*, St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Columbia *
- 22nd** Sunday, *Earth Day*

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