



SC Voter

Post Office Box 8453 • Columbia, SC 29202 • Phone & Fax: (803) 251-2726

Website: www.lwvsc.org

Volume 64, Issue 3

Winter 2015



IS 2015

Going to be the Year of Education in South Carolina

Signs are certainly pointing that way!

By Jane Pulling, LWVSC Director, Education

Equity Lawsuit Resolved

On November 13, 2014, after more than 21 years of litigation, the South Carolina Supreme Court issued a 3-2 ruling in favor of the defendants in the Abbeville et al. v. the State of South Carolina. This opinion, authored by Chief Justice, Jean Toal, found that South Carolina was failing its duty under the state constitution to provide a “minimally adequate” public education to the children of the plaintiff school districts: “Thousands of South Carolina’s school children—the quintessential future of our state—have been denied this opportunity due to no more than historical accident.” The Court directed the parties to come together to suggest to the Court how to proceed and asked them to create a viable timeline as well as specific, planned remedial measures. The Court retained jurisdiction of the case meaning that they must approve any planned remediation. They placed the primary burden of remediation with the legislature.

Teacher Recruitment, Evaluation, and Retention

The Senate Select Committee on Public School Teachers in South Carolina has held a series of meetings this fall to hear testimony on issues related to teacher recruitment, evaluation, and retention. The League has been present for several of these hearings. Testimony was given by State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Mick Zais; Jane Turner, Executive Director of the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement; Mary Hipp, State Department of Education; Dr. David Matthis, Superintendent Saluda School District; Dr. Lemuel Watson, Dean USC College of Education, and others.

The jury is in! We have a major problem facing us in the immediate and near term future. Our South Carolina colleges and universities are not currently producing enough education graduates to fill the teaching positions open each year. 5,000 teachers leave the classroom each year

due to retirement, moving to other states, or leaving the profession. SC colleges and universities graduate 2,000 teachers annually. The shortfall of approximately 3,000 teachers is filled by a combination of teachers from out of state, foreign teachers with special visas, and alternative certification teachers. Shortages are

YEAR OF EDUCATION:
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A very important LEAD Day in Columbia - January 31

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK®

*See details and registration form inside.
All League members urged to attend.*

Website: www.lwvsc.org

Join the League today!

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Co-Presidents' Perspectives:

Once again we are beginning a new year and a new legislative session. Events at the end of 2014 lead us to hope we could have a groundbreaking year in ethics reform and education reform in South Carolina. On the ethics front we had the plea bargain and resignation of a very powerful speaker of the South Carolina House. The new speaker, Jay Lucas, has appointed various subcommittees to prepare for significant ethics reform in the new legislative session. Lynn Teague, our intrepid advocacy director, details the ins and outs of ethics reform in an article elsewhere in this SC Voter issue.

And, after 21 years we finally had a decision from the South Carolina Supreme Court in the Abbeville case, which calls on the state to bring equity to education across South Carolina - to bring quality education to the poorer rural school districts. This will not be a simple issue to resolve and most experts are predicting it will take several years and resources that have yet to be identified. Nevertheless, this is an issue in which the League has been involved, having filed an amicus brief in this case, and we will continue to pursue a

fair and lasting solution.

We also take a glance in the rearview mirror at last year's elections. According to the New York Times this past midterm election saw the lowest voter turnout nationwide in 72 years at 36.3 percent. In South Carolina we fared little better at 43.79%. Voter cynicism and apathy have hit a very high point. All the more reason we need to restore confidence in our government. Our ethics reform efforts in South Carolina and the new initiative for campaign finance reform by the national League present us with new and continuing opportunities for change. We have one of our few opportunities for leagues across the state to come together for LEAD (League Education and Advocacy Day) on January 31 to further discuss these and other issues. The agenda is posted in this issue of the Voter and is loaded with great sessions and presenters, as well as opportunities to share ideas with other local leagues.

One final thought as we enter this New Year. Sometimes external events provide an opportunity for change and we take advantage. But the strength and power of



JoAnne Day
Co-President, LWVSC

the League is that we are always there. In times good and bad we continue to register and educate voters, and monitor and advocate for legislation we believe promotes the best promise of democracy for all our citizens. We will be there. Count on it.

New LWVSC Health Care Leader on Board

LWVSC welcomes David Ball to the state board as Healthcare Director. His role is to promote the position of the LWVUS that, "Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care."

Healthcare For All

By David Ball, LWVSC Director, Healthcare

Your League is following several health related issues in the coming legislative session. Medicaid expansion remains an important, but unrealized, issue in our state. Our tax dollars continue to flow to the federal government but the refusal on the part of Governor Haley and the legislature to expand the program means that hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians will remain uninsured.

In collaboration with AARP, SC Appleseed, faith-based groups and other organizations your League has formed

Close the Gap SC specifically to advocate for health insurance for the poor.

Each session at least one bill is considered to restrict women's reproductive rights. We can expect a bill that considers a fertilized egg a person. If passed it would have the effect to make abortion illegal and some forms of birth control as well. Teaming up with the ACLU, your League supports the position that women's health issues should be resolved by the patient and the healthcare provider. As the ACLU works to uphold the law and women's



choice, your League has offered to provide the names of members who can contact their legislators and provide testimony on upcoming legislation. We will be watching for sex education bills and other health related topics that impact your family and our community.

Time For You To Decide What The League Stands For

By Lynn Shuler Teague, LWVSC VP, Issues and Action

Materials have gone out by email to local League leaders across South Carolina to begin the process of PROGRAM PLANNING for 2015-2017.

In odd-numbered years, local Leagues review existing state level positions and make recommendations for the future. One of the highlights of state convention in April 2015 will be the adoption of state Program that will set our course for advocacy and education in South Carolina.

In selecting issues that are important and timely, issues on which the League can be an informed voice, you can ensure that the League will impact the significant policy issues facing our state.

In order to guarantee that our Program Planning is genuinely grassroots, it is important to encourage maximum participation in the process.

Local Leagues should meet during January and February to discuss, debate and come to agreement on program recommendations for the next biennium. Leagues often combine their state program planning meetings with planning for local

League study and action.

The League has a number of policy areas in which we develop positions: **Child Welfare; Criminal Justice; Education; Natural Resources; State and Local Government; State and Local Taxation; and Transportation. Within the area of State and Local Government we include some of our most central concerns, focused on elections and voting rights and on government accountability and transparency.**

We are asking you to recommend any changes to existing positions or new studies or action projects that you would like LWVSC to undertake during the 2015-2017 biennium. Local Leagues each should return a single response form reflecting the consensus of the local group no later than March 1, 2015.

Based on local League response, the state Board will develop a proposed Program to discuss, debate, revise and adopt at convention. State board recommendations are sent to League delegates at least six weeks before the

state convention. At convention on April 24-25 in Hilton Head, delegates will vote on Program related issues, including the state board recommendations and any not-recommended items approved by convention for consideration.

When considering policy areas for study, please remember that at each level of government the League can access position statements at higher levels without completing a new study. For example, our national positions on campaign finance help to support our lobbying and public advocacy on ethics reform at the state level.

In an effort to make the Program Planning process as easy as possible, a Guide and response form have been emailed to leadership but also will be available to Leagues online at the LWVSC website, <http://www.lwvsc.org/>. The website also includes the current Agenda for Action in its entirety so that League members can read the existing LWVSC public policy positions in depth before the meeting.

How Do Leagues Effectively Use the Media

How are we communicating our message, our events, and the work we do in helping people to be informed and active voters and citizens to the next generation while not neglecting our older members that are less technology oriented? We asked some of our local Leagues to share their experiences with us.

For starters, every League in South Carolina, including MAL units, has a web site. They are listed in the Leaders' Directory if you want to check them out for ideas. Web sites and email are the two primary electronic forms of communication.

Increasingly, local League newsletters are in electronic form, and only a limited number of hard copies are sent. We do lose contact with some of our older members by relying so heavily on electronic media, so we need to be mindful of who they are and find other ways to keep them connected.

From our limited sample of responses, it appears that we are not doing much blogging or tweeting, although some Leagues have a Facebook presence and several state board members blog for Statehouse Report. (If you are not subscribed, do! It's free. Just Google Statehouse Report.) Instead, for the most part (except for web sites) we rely on traditional media.

Several Leagues write regular letters to the editor. Meetings are announced and sometimes covered by reporters in the local press. Only a few of our Leagues have a local TV station, so newspapers are a primary means of communication, at least for those of us over 50!

The Clemson League has a retired public relations person who has developed media contacts and does a great job of getting the story out. Clemson also publicizes its

meetings and candidate events through other organizations and neighborhood associations.

By far the most developed media program is Hilton Head, which has two board members for communications, one for print and one for electronic media. The print media person publicizes meetings and events open to the public and encourages members to write Letters to the Editor. The electronic communications person manages the newsletter which is distributed electronically, with some hard copies for members who do not do email. The Hilton Head League also tweets with 114 followers, including some elected officials and media people.

If your League has something to add to the conversation, let your state board know!



Conservation Leaders Meet and Strategize

By *Christie McCoy-Lawrence, LWV Charleston Area Director, Natural Resources*

From December 7 to 9, the SC 13th Annual Conservation Leaders' Summit was held at Camp Gravatt, near Aiken. Approximately 45 attendees represented 15 to 20 conservation organizations, with the greatest representation from staff of the Conservation Voters of SC, the SC Coastal Conservation League, Upstate Forever, and the Sierra Club. Smaller groups participating included the Native Plant Society, Congaree River Keeper, and Friends of the Edisto. Representing LWV, along with me (for LWV Charleston Area), were Chester Sansbury and Suzanne Rhodes, both of LWVSC.

Water Withdrawal - "Don't Drain Our Rivers"

In the coming months we will hear more about the state law regulating surface water withdrawal from South Carolina rivers. Efforts are underway either to amend the current law or to propose a new one; along with those efforts will likely come a public information campaign along the lines of the "Don't Dump On Us" campaign last year.

Background: a year ago it came to light that Walther Farms, a large Michigan-based agricultural corporation, had registered to withdraw up to 805 million gallons per month from the South Fork of the Edisto River for irrigation. (Walther Farms had bought 3,700 acres in Aiken County to grow potatoes for Frito-Lay potato chips.) Data indicated that the water withdrawal could amount to as much as two-thirds of the river flow in severe drought conditions. In more common dry periods, the withdrawal could often take one quarter of the river flow. What's more, a second registration to take half again that amount from further down the river was under consideration by DHEC. Walther Farms had behaved in good faith and correctly followed SC law in registering for these withdrawals.

Since then, Walther Farms has negotiated, and an agreement with environmental groups was reached on Jan. 27, 2014.

This event, however, revealed a serious flaw in the South Carolina Surface Withdrawal, Permitting, Use, and Reporting Act that took effect in 2011. The law requires permits and public notice from municipalities and businesses wishing to withdraw surface waters, but agricultural companies, including mega-agricultural organizations like Walther Farms, are exempt from both of those requirements. They

merely need to register, and, once registered, there is no expiration date.

Much larger water withdrawals already take place from other rivers around the state, but usually from much larger and less ecologically sensitive bodies of water. Big agricultural corporations represent a serious threat to all of SC's waterways, and the law need to address this fact. We need a threshold for water withdrawals; we need permits required from agricultural concerns; we need to assess how "safe yield" is currently calculated; we need to require adequate contingency plans; we need expiration dates on all permits.

The EPA Clean Power Plan

The EPA Clean Power Plan requires each state to reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions from existing plants (especially coal-burning plants) 30% below current levels by 2030. Each state is to develop its own plan. Reportedly, eight million comments, including many from SC, were submitted during the public comment period which closed on December 1. Regarding the SC plan, there was an informational session at DHEC in Columbia on July 24, and an Energy Stakeholders group hosted by DHEC has been meeting regularly for about a year to review and discuss how to respond. The group has members from three conservation groups, from SCANA, Electric Cooperatives of SC, Central Electric Cooperative Inc., Santee Cooper, the SC energy Office, and Regulatory staff of the SCPS. SC

needs to give up 12,000 GWhours of coal-burning power and replace it with alternative forms of energy. We have at least 20,000 GWhours of energy-efficient potential -- to be realized through developing renewables (wind, solar), updating building codes, retrofitting buildings, launching behavioral and public information programs, etc. SC utilities think that increased use of nuclear power and natural gas to replace coal should be the most important aspects of SC's plan. The environmental community wants to see a large emphasis given to renewables and the other energy-efficient approaches mentioned above.

During the next six months, environmental groups will be engaging legislators in conversations about energy efficiency and other education and advocacy initiatives. There will also be regional and national coordination efforts. During the next four years, plans will be readied. By 2016, states are supposed to submit a plan, but

they can get a one year extension, so really 2017. By 2018 the multi-state plan is to be finalized.

Meanwhile many states and power industry companies are suing to block the EPA rules, and some members of Congress, including those from SC, are trying to stop EPA's efforts.

Wind Energy

Wind energy is the cheapest form of energy available in the US. It is emission-free and uses no water. SC has a vast amount of potential offshore wind power. Land-based, there is a wind farm presently proposed to be developed in Aiken County by 2019. The environmental community may soon be seeking public comment regarding specific proposals for wind farms in N. Myrtle Beach and N. Charleston.

SC Senate Bill 166 directs the Public Service Commission to adopt resolutions encouraging utilities to develop wind energy. This bill came close to passing in the last session; there will be another try this year. The utilities are now more interested; Santee Cooper is on board and wants to get other utilities more involved. Passage of Senate Bill 166 will help.

Solar Energy

The passage of Act 236 last June cleared the way for third-party leasing of solar panels and the general development of solar power in SC. The Act required, as an initial step, agreement on the value the power companies will accept for excess energy being sold back to the grid. On Thursday, December 11, representatives of the conservation groups and the utilities signed an agreement establishing that excess solar energy can be sold back at full retail value, one-to-one credit per kilowatt hour. This is excellent news. By early 2015, the utilities will be required to provide incentives that will make it easier and more affordable for solar companies to install panels.

Off-Shore Drilling

Campaigning and mis-information has brought the public to believe that there is a large potential for profits and job-creation through off-shore drilling. The environmental community's research indicates the reverse. The extreme noise of seismic blasting will have detrimental effects on fish and animals; the process of bringing the oil back to shore will likely have environmental consequences that could affect tourism; and big

CONSERVATION

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CONSERVATION

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clean-up costs are to be anticipated. The amount of oil realized is anticipated to be very tiny. There is an effort to get the fisheries on board to resist the development of off-shore drilling. One problem: the negotiations are taking place in a closed, proprietary process; there is no transparency. The prospect of off-shore drilling is a long-term problem, but those concerned for the environment need to stay vigilant.

Conservation Bank

The bank has protected 245,000 acres, but its financing is currently not secured. It is subject to a sunset clause by which it expires in 2018, and the Bank is regularly used as a “chess piece” during budget negotiations. Work is going on behind the scenes to secure the existence and funding of the Conservation Bank.

Waste and Recycling

Last year’s “Don’t Dump on Us” campaign was very successful. It cost only \$35,000, but in the end made the bill toxic; no legislators wanted to touch it.

Potential initiatives for 2015-16:

1. A ban on plastic bottles in landfills. Currently, 70% of all plastic bottles end up in landfills. A ban would largely be symbolic and educational, however; it would be very hard to enforce.
2. E-scrap (electronic waste) regulations. These are needed, but it will be important that the regulations don’t excessively burden the county governments.
3. Waste tire regulations.
4. Disposal regulations for household

medications (HHM), prescription drugs, household pesticides, and other toxic, hazardous materials.

Nuclear Radioactive Waste Disposal

SC is now accepting less radioactive waste at the Savannah River Site Disposal Facility for disposal than in 2005, but the concern about this issue has not diminished. For 43 years radioactive waste has been placed in unsealed vaults in unlined dirt trenches, unprotected from rainfall for up to two years while they are being filled. The standard disposal methods allow radioactive waste to percolate into the soil and ground water and into the surface waters of Mary’s Branch Creek, which feeds into the Savannah River.

In 2005, a Judge in the SC Administrative Law Court recognized the leaking radiation as a “monumental hazardous condition,” but Chem-Nuclear was still allowed to renew its license and did not undertake remediation. The SC Environmental Law Project (SCELP) returned to the Court of Appeals in February of this year and on July 30, the Court ruled in favor of SCELP, giving DHEC and Chem-Nuclear 90 days to develop a plan addressing all the facility’s disposal deficiencies. DHEC and Chem-Nuclear have asked the Court to “reconsider,” but there is reason to be optimistic that the decision will be upheld.

SC Conservation Coalition

During the conference, Summit attendees elected a new steering committee called the SC Conservation Coalition Committee (which will replace the “Common Agenda” steering committee) and adopted new missions, rules, and procedures for that committee.

The five members elected for the SCCC steering committee are Amy Armstrong (SCELP),

Bob Guild (Sierra Club), Nancy Fitzer (Upstate Forever), Ann Timberlake (CVSC), and Lisa Turansky (SCCCL).

The new SCCC is a membership-based association of non-profit organizations or groups; its mission includes promoting the protection and improvement of South Carolina’s natural resources, emphasizing that South Carolina’s economic well-being and the health of its citizens are inextricably linked to the protection and improvement of its natural resources, and speaking as a “collective voice” for the conservation community in the SC General Assembly for the enactment and amendment of laws and regulations to protect and improve SC’s natural resources.

As always, it was stimulating and encouraging to spend time in the midst of this vibrant, energetic, dedicated community and to learn once again about the many initiatives going forward in the state to further that SCCC mission.

The recent Ebola outbreak underlines the awareness that events as distant as West Africa can impact our health here in South Carolina. A healthy democracy requires that we pay attention to our health and that of our community.

As a retired RN let me encourage you to eat lots of different colored, unprocessed food (in moderation) followed by a brisk walk to get the blood flowing. Get a good night’s sleep, drink lots of water, and wash your hands to stay healthy.

Sales Tax Decisions By Voters

By Holley Ulbrich, LWVSC Director, Taxation and Home Rule

Fourteen counties had referenda on local sales taxes in November 2014, including several that took advantage of the new authorization to use the proceeds for school capital projects. The majority, however, were for roads and other infrastructure. These referenda must be limited either in duration or in the amount to be raised, at which time they expire.

Three counties (Chester, Lancaster, and Sumter) were extending existing local sales taxes to pay for new projects. Schools were

the beneficiary of successful referenda in Anderson, Aiken, and Charleston counties.

Referenda for roads and other capital projects were approved in Berkeley, Dorchester, and Georgetown counties. Four counties--Greenville, Oconee, Lexington, and Kershaw-- did not approve the tax increase.

Many of our local Leagues were active in providing information and in some cases, under local positions, supporting the proposals.

Invite Us, We'll Come: LWVSC Speakers Ready To Share

We love to visit local leagues and share information with you. The following Leaguers have knowledge and will travel to your location. Contact them and set up a date to visit with your league!

Holley Ulbrich – Taxation, public school finance, and local home rule
holleyulbrich@gmail.com

Jane Pulling – Public Education
lrpulling@homesc.com

Lynn Teague – Ethics Reform, Advocacy, and other issues in the General Assembly
Teague_L@bellsouth.net

Suzanne Rhodes – Nuclear Waste Issues in South Carolina, suzrhodes@juno.com

David Ball – Health Care in South Carolina, davidball47@gmail.com



LEAGUE EDUCATION & ADVOCACY DAY

SUSTAINING SOUTH CAROLINA: *Show Me the Money!*

Looking at the Dollars and Sense of South Carolina's Budget

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (The SCEA)

421 ZIMALCREST DR. COLUMBIA

JANUARY 31, 2015

— PROGRAM —

- 9:00** **Gathering / Light Breakfast**
- 9:30** **Welcome & Introductions—**
JoAnne Day & Susan Richards,
LWVSC Co-Presidents
- 9:35 - 10:30** **Expect the Unexpected –
What's up in the S.C. Legislature**
Presenter: Lynn Teague, LWVSC Vice
President, Issues & Action/Legislative Action
- 10:10 - 11:05** **League Success Stories**
Presenters:
⇒ Martha Roblee, President, LWV Columbia
 Columbia's Outreach Initiative – Engaging
 members to be more active in their League.
⇒ Julie Hussey, President, LWV Charleston Area
 School to Prison Pipeline Event
⇒ Loretta Warden, President & Pamela
 Hollinger, Convention Committee Chair,
 LWV of Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area
 LWVSC Convention 2015 Update
- 11:15 - 12:00** **The Fourth Revolution: The state of
the S.C. state budget and some
reflections on its long term future.**
Facilitator: Holley Ulbrich, LWVSC Director,
State & Local Taxation/Home Rule
Presenter: Mike Shealy, Budget Director,
South Carolina State Senate
- 12:00 – 12:15** **Sarah Leverette Endowment Fund
for the LWV. South Carolina Political
Collection Hollings Library, USC**
Carol Benfield, Senior Development Officers, USC
Herb Sarstook, Director, South Carolina
Political Collections, USC
- 12:15 – 1:00** **Break and Buffet Lunch:
Time to Network – Eat & Meet!**
Network with LWVSC leaders & Leaguers
from across S.C.
TABLE TOPICS:
Membership Leadership Development –
Keller Barron
Election Issues – Paula Egleson & Eleanor Hare
Education – Jane Pulling
Stop by the LWVSC wares table -
*Pick up helpful League materials, sign up to have
your business cards printed, and more!*
- 1:10 – 1:55** **Politics and the General Assembly:
Influences on Decision Making**
Facilitator: Keller Baron,
LWVSC Membership Director.
Presenter: Kyle Michel, Esq.,
Kyle Michel Law Firm
- 2:05 – 2:55** **Shaping the SC League from the
grassroots up** - In this session, we will be
sharing responses to questions sent in advance
to local leagues about their experience with
programs, program planning, and local
leadership and membership issues.
Facilitator: Holley Ulbrich
- 3:00** **Closing**



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Website: www.lwvsc.org

Join the League today!

LEAD DAY 2015 - SUSTAINING SOUTH CAROLINA: SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Join Us! January 31, 2015 in Columbia

WHO: All League members are welcome and urged to attend!
WHEN: Saturday, January 31, 2015 - 9:00 a.m. – Gathering and light breakfast, 9:30-3:00 Program
WHERE: South Carolina Education Association, 421 Zimacrest Drive, Columbia, SC 29210
REGISTRATION: \$20 per person. Includes materials, light breakfast & lunch.
RSVP by January 23, 2015 to LWVSC c/o Dianne Haselton, 119 Tant Street, Clemson, SC 29631, or email your registration form to susan@srconcepts.org.

Join League members from across South Carolina for a fun and educational way to kick off another great League year. Take part in exciting leadership training and education, hear League success stories, stop by the wares table and pick up helpful League materials, sign up to have your business cards printed and more!

2015 LEAD DAY REGISTRATION FORM

FEE: \$20 per attendee (includes light breakfast, lunch and materials)

NAME: _____ **LEAGUE:** _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

Reserve by Friday, January 23, 2015 to:
LWVSC, c/o Dianne Haselton, 119 Tant St., Clemson, SC 29631.
Or email your registration to susan@srconcepts.org
Payment may be made in advance or at the door.
Checks should be made out to "LWVSC"

Total enclosed for all attendees: _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____
Please indicate number of meatless entrees desired _____
Contact Susan Richards with any questions:
843-324-2711 or susan@srconcepts.org

YEAR OF EDUCATION:

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particularly acute in special education, science, and mathematics. It is especially challenging to secure and keep qualified teachers in poor rural school districts.

Legislators were urged to expand the Teaching Fellows program which pays nearly full tuition for a teaching degree for qualified applicants. Last year 800 viable applicants competed for 200 scholarships. Graduates of this program are required to teach in state. They were also urged to expand the Teacher Cadet Program which targets academically strong high school students, gives them a high school course in education, and places them in classrooms to introduce them to teaching. It was also suggested that student loans target males and minorities to encourage entrance into teacher education programs.

Newly elected State Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman,

has already indicated that her first priority will be working with the legislature to rethink the recently piloted teacher evaluation program, which includes a 30%

value added component, and raising teacher salaries. She has the support of all major teacher, administrator, and school board professional organizations.

Common Core --What Now?

At a recent meeting of the Education Oversight Committee, teachers, professors, and administrators from around the state protested the adoption of recently written standards for mathematics and English language arts. In the spring of 2014, the legislature, led by Sen. Larry Grooms repealed the Common Core Standards that had been adopted by the State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee in 2010. Educators said that the new standards which were created in a short period of four months were confusing, poorly written, and lacking in rigor. A businessman serving on the EOC said that the newly minted standards were not "career-ready." Senators Grooms and Fair note that the process may get 'messy' if the General Assembly sees the new standards as "Common Core" rebranded.

Dr. Kevin O Gorman, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for Berkeley County Schools echoed other instructional supervisors

and curriculum specialists when he noted that a last minute rush to implement new standards would not be good for teachers or students. " Our entire curriculum would have to be adjusted, " he said, " and that's not something you can turn on a dime and get done." Whatever decisions are made, the current law calls for the new standards to be implemented in 2015-2016 school year.

Legislative Developments

Rep. Rita Allison (R-Lyman) will be the new chair of the House Education and Public Works Committee. Long known by educators as a friend of public education, Rep. Allison, has worked for the Commission on Higher Education, and was education advisor to former Governor Mark Sanford. Representative Jenny Horne has introduced a bill that would restructure school funding to provide a more equitable share to poor school districts. A similar bill is expected to be prefiled in the Senate.

On behalf of the League, we will be following all of these issues and others to keep you informed and abreast of new developments. Is 2015 the Year of Education for South Carolina? We'll know soon enough.



LWV SC Voter

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The SC Voter

Winter 2015
Volume 64 Issue 3

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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Susan Richards

Editor: Laurel Suggs

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IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES:



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

January

31st Saturday, *League Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD)*

31st Saturday, *LWVUS Online Membership Count deadline*

February

Black History Month & Youth Voter Month

14th Friday, *94th Anniversary of LWV's founding*

16th Monday, *Presidents Day*

** Any member of the LWV of South Carolina is
welcome to attend LWVSC Board meetings.*

March

Women's History Month

8th Sunday, *International Women's Day*

15th-21st

Sunshine Week, a national initiative to foster dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information

14th Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., *LWVSC Board Meeting*, Grecian Garden Restaurant, West Columbia, SC*

31st Spring SC Voter material deadline

April

Fourth Quarter PMP Statements mailed and payment due

3rd Friday, *Passover begins*

SAVE THE DATE: *Mark your calendars*

LWVSC State Convention – Saturday and Sunday, April 25 & 26th - Hilton Head Island, The Beach House Resort.



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Website: www.lwvsc.org

Join the League today!