



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

# SC Voter

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

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

Volume 62, Issue 1

Summer 2010

## 2010 LWV of South Carolina Leaders Day: ACTION: It's What We Do!

**JOIN US!** August 21st, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1715 Bull Street, Columbia, SC

### Take part in exciting leadership training and education sessions in areas like . . .

◆ *The School to Prison Pipeline: Strategies for Creating more Humane Schools* --Nationally 1 in 3 African American and 1 in 6 Latino boys in 2001 were at risk of incarceration at some point during their lifetime (Children's Defense Fund). Although boys are about 5 times as likely to be incarcerated as girls, the number of girls in the juvenile justice system has been steadily increasing. In South Carolina, the offense of disturbing schools has consistently accounted for the most referrals to the Department of Juvenile Justice since 2001. This trend of youth moving from schools to confinement has been dubbed the "school to prison pipeline" or "push-out." This workshop will explore factors that appear to contribute to the exclusion of youth from schools in South Carolina and strategies for keeping youth in school and out of the juvenile justice system.

**LEAGUE LEADERS DAY**  
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## LWVUS Convention 2010:

90 YEARS YOUNG & READY FOR THE NEXT 90

**A LARGE DELEGATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA LEAGUE LEADERS EXPERIENCED THE THRILL OF THE 49TH LWVUS BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN ATLANTA IN JUNE. WE JOINED NEARLY 800 LEAGUERS FROM 45 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WORKING AND NETWORKING FOR FIVE DAYS, FROM EARLY MORNING TO LATE NIGHT.**



Part of South Carolina's outstanding convention delegation. Left to right: Barbara Zia, Linda Gahan, Helen Bennett, Sharon Fratepietro, Della Baker, Barbara Swift, Jean Wood, Mary Horres, Mary Ann Deku, Rebecca Lambert, Peggy Brown, Carole Cato, Sheila Gallagher, Teri Evans, JoAnne Day.

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

**Join the League today!**





*Congressman and civil rights leader the Honorable John Lewis gave a rousing opening address at LWVUS Convention. Left to right: Mary Wilson, outgoing LWVUS President; Linda Gahan, LWV/Clemson Area President; Congressman Lewis; Della Baker, immediate past LWV/Clemson Area President; Jared McKinley, Outreach Coordinator for Congressman Lewis; Carole Cato, LWVSC and LWV Columbia Area Board.*

## South Carolina League Leaders at Convention were:

Keller Barron – Former LWVUS Board member, representing Bluffton Area  
 Mary Horres, Sharon Fratepietro, Shayna Howell, Constance Anastopoulou – Charleston Area  
 Linda Gahan, Della Baker, Janie Shipley – Clemson Area  
 JoAnne Day, Teri Evans, Pamela Craig, Suzanne Rhodes – Columbia Area  
 Sheila Gallagher – Florence Area  
 Rebecca Lambert, Jean Wood – Greenville County  
 Barbara Swift – Hilton Head Island  
 Mary Deku, Helen Bennett – Spartanburg County  
 Barbara Zia, Carole Cato, Peggy Brown, Peggy Appler – LWVSC

## LWVSC CONVENTION 2010

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The convention theme, “**90 Years of Making Democracy Work,**” celebrated the League’s history of change and launched a future of hope. The League’s enduring mission is the important commitment of each and every League member -- to engage Americans in strengthening our democracy.

Convention showed clearly that it’s fun to be 90! We debated important League issues, made decisions about a national leadership team, budgets and an issue-packed study and action agenda, heard some amazing speakers, participated in stimulating workshops and caucuses, networked with Leaguers from around the country, met old friends and made new ones. Following are some highlights.

Convention opened officially on June 12 in a downtown Atlanta Marriott Marquis ballroom with the National Anthem sung beautifully by Atlanta League member Heather Fatzinger, a reminder that, members’ geographic and political differences notwithstanding, we share a commitment to LWV principles and American democracy.

LWVUS Convention Planning Chair (and National Board liaison to SC Leagues) **Mary Klenz’s welcome speech honored our own Sarah Leverette.** Mary paralleled Sarah’s 90 years of advocacy on behalf of democratic principles with the League’s history. To illustrate League grit and determination, she offered an anecdote that Sarah shared on one of Mary’s visits to South Carolina. Sarah, on complaining to her physician about a leg pain, was told that it was likely caused by kicking down the doors of legislators.

Sarah deadpanned that she was relieved to hear it wasn’t arthritis.

In a moving address, **Georgia Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis** shared how the struggle for participation in our democracy has been long and dangerous, and the difference that the League has made. He thanked the League for all we have done and will continue to do. He urged us to continue to “get in the way” “to get in trouble” in order to realize the national goal of a more perfect union. His message that the vote is the most important tool in a democracy resonated with the South Carolina delegation.

**Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sibelius** also addressed Convention. A life-long Kansas LWV member, she is leading the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and thanked the League for its role in health care reform. Drawing on an old E.F. Hutton ad, she told us, “When the League speaks, people listen”--thanks to our non-partisan, studied approach to issues. **And the U.S. President and Speaker of the House appeared in videos congratulating the League on its 90th anniversary.**

In her final “State of the League” address, outgoing **President Mary Wilson** recounted the honor she experienced representing the LWV in her travels around the nation. She reminded delegates that “the League’s values are America’s values” and that, though we may be three levels of League, we are one League working together toward a common goal. Mary stressed that crucial to the League’s future of hope are members, money and media.

There wasn’t a dry eye in the house as Walter Shur, husband of the **late Ruth S. Shur**, spoke lovingly about Ruth’s lifelong commitment to the League and the leadership institute he has established in her memory. The Membership Recruitment Initiative is part of that memorial--a successful partnership between the local, state and national Leagues to recruit new members and develop leaders at the grassroots level. SC Leagues are currently working in partnership with the MRI. The finale of the Ruth Shur honor was an introduction of the Shur Fellows, 12 national coaches who will be working with partnership Leagues. Among them was

## LWV/Charleston Area’s Shayna Howell. Convention Action.

Three and a half days of plenary sessions featured presentations, debate and adoption of proposed FY 2010-2011 budgets and reports by the Treasurer, Nominating Committee Chair, Budget Chair and Executive Director. We heard that, due to careful fiscal management, member high giving levels, grant support, staff reductions, and suspension of the *National Voter*, LWVUS’s financial picture is strong.

**The League received two generous memorial gifts to support leadership development and recruitment** from families of League leaders. The budget restores funding to send members a short printed newsletter. Due to continued membership decline, the adopted budget includes a 40-cent increase in the FY 2010-11 LWVUS **annual per member payment, raising it to \$29.60.** The Nominating Committee’s slate was elected

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## **LWVSC CONVENTION 2010**

*continued from page 2 –*

and, for the first time in many years, no nominations came from the floor.

Delegates passed the board-recommended program of study and action that was the culmination of over a year of planning by state and local Leagues. **All LWVUS positions were retained, a study of the federal role in public education was adopted, and an update of the Arms Control position was approved. Delegates also adopted a non-recommended study of privatization: the transfer of government functions, services and assets to the private sector. Motions were approved: to concur with the LWVMD and LWVME position on Marriage Equality that will be added to the Equality of Opportunity position; to add support of the National Popular Vote Compact to the position on selection of the president.**

### **Caucuses & Workshops.**

On the first evening, South Carolina delegates met for refreshment in the LWVSC “Hospitality Suite” (aka Peggy Brown’s and my room) and divvied up the array of caucuses and workshops to ensure that at least one of us attended those we felt were important to our state. Caucuses are meetings sponsored by Leagues for the purpose of informing and developing support on an issue, particularly on a convention action that proponents want to forward (e.g., adoption of a study). They were scheduled from early morning to late night, when plenary sessions weren’t being held.

*LWVSC’s Southeastern states environmental caucus, coordinated by Peggy Brown*, drew over 40 attendees at the crack of dawn to discuss issues that are important to each state and how to work together. Not surprisingly, common issues are energy, air quality, water quantity and quality, and waste disposal. Caucus participants shared challenges of high poverty levels, vulnerability to promises of jobs that threaten health and the environment, and low-income communities burdened with problems of

air, water and infrastructure, nasty industries and waste dumps. As a first action of regional collaboration, a letter is being drafted for southeastern Leagues to send to their legislators and enforcers stating our commitment to protecting public health and the environment and ending the practice of making the Southeast a national dumping ground.

*A LWV/Charleston Area-sponsored caucus led by Sharon Fratepietro* addressed sentencing reform as a means to promote safety and justice, along with alternatives to incarceration for some offenses. Based on the assurance of strong support for sentencing reform by 85 caucus attendees, a national committee is being formed to move this issue forward. The committee will look for existing state League positions on sentencing reform, and propose a national concurrence on some of those positions at the LWVUS convention in 2012.

Workshops galore provided opportunities to learn about policy issues, develop League leadership skills, and get informed about LWVUS projects and resources that local and state Leagues can access. **JoAnne Day** was impressed by a session on the **LWVUS VOTE411, a new online voters’ guide system**, and will be discussing its opportunities for SC Leagues at League Leaders Day. **Suzanne Rhodes** attended a session on redistricting which will begin in earnest in 2011, with important implications for fair and representative districts in SC. Suzanne will have information for us at Leaders Day on what to look for in redistricting plans and resources that are available.

### **Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary.**

Sessions of special interest to League leaders from South Carolina were on the **LWVUS judiciary project that has selected South Carolina as a new state to increase diversity**. LWVUS staff members Zaida Arguedas and David Ward facilitated an informative gathering with Kansas (just completing its first year in the project) and SC Leagues. Kansas leaders shared their experiences in working on a statewide campaign with members of LWVSC who

are interested in leading the initiative in our state. We were impressed by the Kansas project’s many achievements, including increased League visibility. The meeting provided information on opportunities for SC Leagues to participate in the project in the year ahead.

A fascinating workshop that followed examined whether a more diverse judiciary is important and attainable. Panelists included the Honorable Carol Hunstein, Chief Justice of the GA Supreme Court; Ciarra Torres-Spelliscy, The Brennan Center for Justice; and Zuraya Tapia-Alfaro, Hispanic National Bar Association. A reception after the workshop provided more opportunities to network with Kansas League leaders and national judicial reform leaders. Our conversation with Deanna Dawson from the Justice at Stake Campaign about the need for diversity and independence on South Carolina’s courts went till late night and concluded with a commitment of JAS support for our initiative in SC.

This summer I will be talking with local League leaders about the South Carolina judiciary project-- how their Leagues can be involved and available grant resources (technical and funding). Our goal is to have 100% participation. A special workshop at League Leaders Day will be devoted to the initiative and will offer breakout sessions where leaders can work with the project team to plan local activities.

Convention adjourned with a stirring address from **newly elected president Elisabeth MacNamara** who took over the leadership of the League in her home city of Atlanta. Recently retired as assistant district attorney of DeKalb County, Elisabeth is a past LWVGA president and served on the National Board since 2006. She has a vacation home in the SC Upstate and has participated in League activities in South Carolina. It’s nice to see a Southern woman leading the League as we build to 100 years.

Headed homeward we felt energized and inspired to continue the League’s role in engaging citizens in making democracy work.

*Barbara*

Note: For more information about Convention, including workshop materials, visit [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council\\_and\\_Convention&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=138&ContentID=15574](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council_and_Convention&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=138&ContentID=15574)

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## 2010 S.C. LEADERS DAY: *continued from page 1 –*

- ◆ *Candidate Forum Moderating Training* - Learn the basics and then put them into action. First the basics then get an opportunity for some hands-on experiences. This promises to be not only interesting, but fun too.
- ◆ *Make the Media Your Friend* - Learn when and how to contact all forms of media.
- ◆ *Striking a Balance* - Making time for family, work and community service. Not enough hours in a day? We can't promise to add more time to the clock, but we can help you make the most of the 24/7 available.
- ◆ *Nonpartisanship in the League* - Experienced League leaders from national, state and local levels share what it means and why it matters.
- ◆ *Judicial Selection* - Learn about an opportunity for all local Leagues to achieve positive change in South Carolina on the issue of selecting an independent and diverse judiciary.
- ◆ *Opportunities for local Leagues in the year ahead* - Plan your League year around activities that will build member interest and increase visibility.
- ◆ *Networking* -- With state and local League leaders on activities such as membership, voters service, and LWVSC studies and action priorities
- ◆ *Election Integrity* -- What is election transparency and why is it essential? What is the League's stand on transparency? Take part in an informal conversation with League voting experts.

**WHO:** All League members are welcome and all local League leaders are urged to attend.

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 21, 2010  
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.,  
9:00 - Gathering and light breakfast,  
9:30-3:30 - Program

**WHERE:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church,  
1715 Bull St., downtown Columbia  
(corner of Bull & Blanding).\*

**REGISTRATION:** \$25 PER PERSON.  
INCLUDES MATERIALS, LIGHT  
BREAKFAST, & LUNCH.

*\*Directions & parking: Coming on I-126 into Columbia, stay on Elmwood Ave. and take a right on Bull St. Three blocks down you will cross over Laurel St. and then you will see the red St. Paul's Lutheran sign on your right. From Taylor St. go north on Bull St. and two blocks on left is St. Paul's Lutheran. Park in the small parking lot next to gray stone church or on street (meters are free on Saturday).*

*Enter Fellowship Hall through the Bull St. building doors.*

**Join League members from across South Carolina for this fun and educational way to kick off another great League year. Complete program with schedule, presenters and speakers will be sent to local League presidents and posted at [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org).**

**Agenda and Registration form on page 5.**

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## LWVSC and Coastal Conservation League Appeal Battery Recycling Facility Permit

*By Peggy Brown, LWVSC Co Director, Natural Resources*

LWVSC and Coastal Conservation League have joined to appeal the final board review of the DHEC Bureau of Air Quality decision to issue an Air Quality Synthetic Minor Construction Permit to Johnson Controls Battery Group, Inc. Mr. Bob Guild is the representing attorney.

The LWVSC is not opposed to the battery recycling plant. We are asking the Administrative Law Judge to rescind the approved air permit and require DHEC staff to further review the emissions and compliance standards to ensure Johnson Controls install the best available control technology to reduce plant emissions that will provide for maximum protection against toxic pollutants that are known to impact human health and the environment.

**Background:** Johnson Controls has proposed to build a lead acid battery recycling facility on the banks of the Great Pee Dee River in Florence County. The proposed battery recycling plant would receive approximately 595 tons of automotive and marine batteries daily and produce approximately 416 tons of lead ingots daily. The plant's predicted toxic emissions of 97.7 tons/year nitrogen oxide, 96.2 tons/year CO<sub>2</sub>, fall just short

of the 100 tons/year "major source" threshold that would require the use of the "best available control technology," and yet there is no recourse once the plant is built and the major source threshold is crossed. Arsenic, cadmium and other toxic pollutants would also be emitted.

The LWVSC supports the reclamation and recycling of lead acid battery components and their diversion from landfill disposal, but we want to be assured that such recycling does not otherwise burden our environment. To protect human health and the environment the most stringent control technologies must be required. The DHEC Bureau of Air Quality issued Johnson Controls an air permit to build the proposed facility without requiring adequate control technologies.

On April 8, 2010 a DHEC Board review was granted and the board upheld the staff's decision by a two board member vote. The questions by the Board were hard-core in relation to the amount of lead emissions the facility would emit and lead fugitives. Comparisons were made to a facility in California that emits approximately 23lbs. of lead annually while Johnson controls states they will not

emit more than 1230 lbs. annually. The board chair used the analogy of comparing the two facilities to speed limits of 65 miles an hour and 650 miles per hour. The board asked the DHEC staff when is enough pollution enough? When do you stop? However, in the end it was determined to uphold the DHEC staff's decision to grant the air permit.

To date I understand that DHEC staff and the attorney's have been working diligently and are close to an agreement that will assure effective lead emissions monitoring, public accountability and a facility design with operating practices needed to assure compliance with lead air quality standards. Everyone agrees that tighter federal lead standards will be coming in the near future, further warranting better plant design for today. Hopefully we can come to a meeting of the minds before our court date is announced. I am looking forward to the day that we can send a letter to editor welcoming Johnson Controls Inc. to the Florence area and recognizing them for good environmental stewardship.

# LWV of South Carolina Leaders Day Agenda

- 9:00 Gathering & Continental Breakfast**
- 9:30 Welcome & Introductions**--Barbara Zia, LWVSC President
- 9:35 The School to Prison Pipeline: Strategies for Creating More Humane Schools**  
Facilitator: Robin Kimbrough-Melton-JD Research Professor, Clemson U. Institute on Family & Neighborhood Life; LWVSC Criminal Justice Director; LWV/Clemson Area
- 10:20 Moderator Training: How to Keep It Fair and Balanced and Remain In Control**  
Presenters: Reggie Turetsky, LWV/Clemson Voters Service Co-Chair  
Joan Dehne, LWV/Charleston Area Voters Service Co-Chair
- 11:05 Getting Your Message into the Media**  
Presenters: Susan Richards, President, SR Concepts; LWVSC Board Director; LWV/Charleston Area  
Janet Benjamin, Facilities Director for Chapman Cultural Center; LWV/Spartanburg County Public Relations Director
- 11:50 Break and Lunch: A Time to Network - Eat and Meet! You Asked & We Listened**  
Take a break, shop the wares tables, or take this opportunity to connect with LWVSC Board members & Leaguers from all over South Carolina
- 12:45 Striking a Balance: How to Juggle Home, Work and Community Service**  
Presenter: Jennet Robinson Alterman, Executive Director, Center for Women; LWV/Charleston Area
- 1:15 Nonpartisanship in the League: What It Means and Why It Matters**  
Presenters: Mary Klentz, LWVUS Board Member, LWVNC; Laurel Suggs, LWVSC Vice President Voters Service, Barbara Swift, LWV/Hilton Head Island Co-President
- 1:45 Quest for an Independent & Diverse Judiciary in South Carolina:** Learn about opportunities for your League in this exciting project, coordinated by LWVSC & funded by LWVUS. Breakouts for planning local League activities will be included.  
Presenters: Sarah Leverette, LWVSC Board Director, LWV/Columbia Area  
Constance Anastopoulo, LWV/Charleston Area Vice President; Charleston School of Law Professor  
LWVUS Specialist on the Judiciary & the Courts Project
- 2:45 More Opportunities for Local Leagues in 2010-2011 –**  
JoAnne Day, LWVSC Vice President Issues & Action, LWV/Columbia Area
- A proposal for LWVSC concurrence on LWV/Charleston Area's position on illegal drug policy - Sharon Fratepietro, LWV/Charleston Area Board Member
  - Studies on water supply & school district governance - New resources available & plans for consensus process
  - Vote 411.org - On-line resource to educate voters about candidates and their positions
  - The Redistricting Process: Its importance & how your League can get involved -- Suzanne Rhodes, LWVSC Off-Board Director, LWV/Columbia Area
- 3:30 Closing**
- For members who wish to stay –**  
**An informal conversation about Election Transparency: What it is... Why it's a League principle for election integrity...**  
*How our state's voting system measures up*  
Discussion leaders: Eleanor Hare, LWVSC Director, LWV/Clemson Area; Duncan Buell, LWV/Columbia Area, LWVSC consultant on election technology

## 2010 LEAGUE LEADERS DAY Registration Form

**FEE: \$25 per attendee (includes light breakfast, lunch & materials)**

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Additional attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Local League or Member at Large Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Reserve by August 19 to:** LWVSC, c/o Dianne Haselton, 119 Tant St., Clemson, SC 29631. Or e-mail your registration to [ziab1@comcast.net](mailto:ziab1@comcast.net).

**Payment may be made in advance or at the door. Checks should be made out to "LWVSC."**

Total enclosed for all attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Barbara Zia with any questions: 803-251-2726 or [ziab1@comcast.net](mailto:ziab1@comcast.net).**

**Wares to Sell? Contact Peggy Appler, 843-607-5528 or [dappler@homesc.com](mailto:dappler@homesc.com).**



# 2010 Legislative Session -

## Slashing and Burning With No Relief In Sight

By JoAnne Day, LWVSC,  
Vice President Issues and Action

They have gone home for good, absent another budget crisis. The 118th General Assembly has adjourned *sine die*, that is, with no day to return. Any bill not adopted by the General Assembly or veto overridden is dead. The 119th General Assembly will begin anew January 2011.

The session ended on the heels of Governor Mark Sanford's 107 budget vetoes. The focus at the end of the legislative session has been on the budget shortfalls, program cuts and layoffs. Most of the dollars in the sustained vetoes were the \$214 million in contingent monies in Part IV of the budget. Those were to be funded if the federal government adopts an extension to enhanced Medicaid rates (FMAP). To date, the FMAP extension has not passed. If it does, the General Assembly may appropriate them in a supplemental bill in January. Of course, many of those in need now, especially recipients of drugs through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and Free Medical Clinics will suffer the consequences long before January.

Though the legislative focus at the close of the session has been all budget all the time, the League was very busy monitoring legislation and lobbying for our positions and funding for necessary services throughout the 2010 legislative year. One ray of sunshine was the passage of a fifty cents per pack increase in the cigarette tax after almost a decade of advocacy by many interested groups, including the League.

One of the League's signature issues, the on-going battle for voter rights, is also highlighted below as we lobbied for the defeat of HR 3418 (Voter photo id). Below is a summary of legislative session impacts from our area LWV-SC Board directors.

## Voter Photo Identification

By Carole Cato, LWVSC Director, Advocacy

*Editor's Note--Photo ID Update: The LWVSC's tireless efforts to block a voter photo identification bill in the state legislature were successful: The bill finally died on June 29, the last day of the session. LWVSC will continue to be an outspoken and effective leader on this issue. Congratulations to League members across the state on a hard-fought victory.*

Voter ID, placed on life support by the Senate's refusal to allow it to die an honorable death, will be finally decided in the House. Using a shrewd political maneuver, the Senate attached their version of the bill, first passed February 3, 2010, as an amendment on the Motion to Adjourn. Technically, they are in recess, not in the usual adjournment, until June 29. Had they adjourned, H.3418 would be dead for the session, only to surely rear its ugly, voter suppression head in January, 2011.

In the House, the members will decide on the ultimatum to accept the Senate version or nothing. Senator McConnell is relentlessly pushing for acceptance on his blog. His message seems to seek to confuse voting machine malfunctions with voter impersonation, two very different issues. We can find no mention of cost in his message, nor can we find any fiscal impact study that takes into consideration all the measures in the bill. Our very conservative estimate is \$1 million plus for implementation and at least \$500,000 annually for maintenance. Photo IDs must be replaced free of charge; therefore, the ongoing expense.

Essentially, the Senate bill calls for a no-excuse Early Voting period that begins 15 days prior to an election and ends 3 days prior to Election Day. To some folks, this may offset the mandate for photo ID for all voters; however, the League sees the bill as an impediment to open polls.

In South Carolina, 178,175 persons have no photo ID issued by the SC DMV, and 48,000 of these voters are 65 years of age and older. It is unconscionable to consider the voting rights of so many legally registered voters may be placed in jeopardy simply because of fear based misinformation and unsworn anecdotal information. Voter impersonation,

according to all available credible sources is nonexistent in our state and seldom happens anywhere in the nation.

## Natural Resources

By Peggy Brown, LWVSC, Co-Director,  
Natural Resource

"Conservationally" speaking, as a whole we had some successes and disappointments alike.

Highlighting on good news, we passed **Electronics Recycling**. This law will ban e-waste, such as televisions and computer equipment, from entering the landfills and requires electronics manufacturers to offer e-waste recovery and collection in a manner convenient to consumers.

**Energy Efficiency** - The Governor signed on for energy efficiency financing legislation. The bill will help move South Carolina to a cleaner energy future and save homeowners money by reducing energy use and creating local green jobs. The bill allows energy providers to offer low interest loans to homeowners for weatherization, insulation, and upgrading to more efficient heating and cooling systems. The homeowner repays the loan over time on the utility bill from the partial savings, and if the property is sold, the new owner assumes the loan.

**Renewable Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits** - This bill will provide tax credits to large manufacturers of renewable energy systems and components for solar, wind, geothermal or other renewable energy. This proactive insight will help promote new green industry in our state.

We stopped the **Covanta Incinerator for this year**. A bill was killed that would have undermined South Carolina's solid waste reduction plan by exempting large incinerators that generate power through "waste to energy" facilities. This bill would have allowed an incinerator company to burn waste in excess of the current statutory 600 tons per day limit. A major concern was the potential for importation of trash from the Northeast. The company would burn over half a million tons of trash per year and leave us with almost 100,000 tons of unwanted toxic ash. Incinerators emit dangerous dioxins and **more mercury per unit** of electricity than

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## 2010 Legislative Session:

*continued from page 6 –*

coal-fired power plants. More than likely they will be back next year.

**Offshore Drilling Stopped** - This bill would have allowed drilling within state waters--3.3 miles from shore or less--and provide expedited permits from DHEC. After a strong lobby effort the bill was defeated. This occurred only days before the disastrous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Surface Water Regulation** - While the League and some of our conservation friends were not convinced that the bill is what would protect South Carolina's water flow, a bill was passed in the last minutes of the session that requires surface water permitting and regulation for more protection than we've ever had before. Governor Sanford signed S452 at a press conference on June 24th in Charleston. The bill will help to protect stream flows for fish, wildlife and boating, and will require permits for all new surface water users of more than three million gallons per month, but unfortunately grandfathered existing users. This legislation is hopefully just the beginning point for future state water conservation measures.

**Conservation Bank** - Partial funding was appropriated for the SC Conservation bank at \$1.7 million, which was far less than what was requested by the Bank and conservation supporters but must be considered a victory given our economic times. Disappointing was the failure of the sunset clause to 2023 from its current expiration date of 2013, and we felt equally let down by the death clause not being removed from the Conservation Bank bill. The death clause deletes all funding for the bank in a down economy.

**Complete disappointment** is felt over a couple of bills relating to restoring our rivers and lakes that were defeated.

Among them were: the emergency sewer spill notification bill; the three strikes bill that would require upgrades at sewer works with repetitive spills; a ban on phosphates in household cleaning supplies; DHEC Reform and measures to strengthen the Conservation Bank.

Do not despair, **we will** be revisiting bills not passed and promoting new bills next year that will continue our efforts to improve South Carolina's air and water quality for future generations.

## **Child Welfare**

*By Janet Marsh, PhD, LWVSC Director,  
Child Welfare, and Rita Paul,  
LWV/Columbia Area*

Legislators have continued to deal with the shrinking state budget by across-the-board cuts to all state-administered programs. This band-aid approach saves them from thinking and prioritizing which services the state must fulfill versus those that can be reduced. It also ignores the fact that when agencies are unable to "match" federal funds with state dollars, the state (and our children) lose out on those funds to support required services.

The number of children and families needing services will more than likely increase over the coming years. The establishment of the **Children's Trust** offers some hope for the future. It is an effort that appears to be laying a strong foundation for strengthening families and ensuring safety for children. The thoughtful planning that set up The Children's Trust underscores its sustainability and credibility. The General Assembly modified the SC Children's Code with language that supports the Trust as a public/non-profit organization. Its programming follows that of merged county and community organizations, allowing it to have a network of partners as well as serving as a conduit for programs and funds. The Trust has the capability of serving to maintain relationships and encourage collaboration and careful spending across agencies.

## **Education**

*By Sheila Gallagher,  
Former LWVSC Director, K-12 Education*

This legislative session (the second of the two-year cycle) was catastrophic for our public schools. Once again the General Assembly (GA) underfunded the Education Finance Act and the Education Improvement Act, as well as the Education Economic Development Act. Apparently our Senators, House of Representatives and Governor did not recognize the connection between strong public schools and our state's economic growth. Furloughs of educators were considered acceptable, increased class sizes were accountable measures, and class materials were an unnecessary resource. For our GA, meeting state standards to achieve academic success has

no meaning beyond the classroom.

With \$800M less from the state and a base student cost at the 1994-1995 level, the inequality within our districts will expand. Some have been able to use reserve dollars to meet budgets while others have no reserves and must make drastic budget cuts. Restructuring our state's tax system is definitely a must for this upcoming session.

The GA needed to have stood up for the children and raised the needed revenue, possibly doing as our North Carolina neighbors did with temporary taxes. The GA did form a commission to study the tax structure but specifically said that Act 388 (property tax swap for sales tax) would not to be considered. Add ACT 388 and the economic downturn together and the legislature did not hold the children harmless. Therefore, South Carolina's poverty will prove to be THE issue, if we are going to improve our economic outlook by having a "Great Public School for Every Student".

## **Criminal Justice**

*By Robin Kimbrough-Melton, LWVSC  
Director, Criminal and Juvenile Justice*

The passage of sentencing reform has been the centerpiece of the League's Criminal Justice Committee for the last year. After nearly a year of exhaustive legislative hearings and expert testimony, the legislature approved and the Governor signed S. 1154, the Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Reform Act on June 2, 2010. The legislation is intended to reverse the trend towards incarcerating non-violent offenders who pose little or no risk to the public. It also seeks to improve supervision of offenders on probation and parole. The reforms are estimated to save taxpayers more than \$400 million over the next five years.

The enactment of sentencing reform is a major step forward. However, significant work remains to ensure that the proposed continuum of community-based treatment options and expanded use of work-release program for non-violent offenders are implemented. Access and availability of adequate treatment alternatives will be a focal point in the coming year for the Criminal Justice Committee as it considers strategies for increasing awareness of the needs of individuals addicted to drugs.

# Leagues In Action

**LWV/Greenville County** held **voter registration drives** in 11 of the 15 high schools in the Greenville County School District as well as drives at the Cascades Verdae and Rolling Green Retirement Centers. "Why didn't they hold drives in all the high schools?" you may ask. There are a variety of reasons: either the school never responded to the League's offer, the school already had a voter registration program in place, or the principal chose not to participate. Anyway you look at it, they still had a very successful drive, registering 543 new voters.

**LWV/Clemson Area** sponsored a **2-hour forum for candidates** running to represent South Carolina's 3rd District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The candidates - 6 Republicans, 2 Democrats and 1 from the Constitution Party - spoke to a full house at the Strom Thurmond Institute Jim Self Auditorium. The candidates were seeking to fill the seat that opened up after Republican U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett entered the South Carolina governor's race. This was the Clemson Area LWV's third candidate forum this spring.

**LWV/Charleston Area** will be celebrating this year's **Women's Equality Day**, which marks the **90th anniversary of both the League of Women Voters and the ratification of the 19th Amendment** that extended voting rights to women, with a special dinner event on August 26 in Charleston. **Inez Tenenbaum**, Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and former SC Superintendent of Education, will be the keynote speaker. The League will also be honoring eight Elected Women of Distinction from the Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester County area. For information visit [http://charleston.sc.lwv.org/womens\\_equal\\_day.html](http://charleston.sc.lwv.org/womens_equal_day.html).

**LWV/Horry County Member at Large Unit** has streamlined its voters service activities by organizing committees: The voter registration committee includes projects such as Reach-a-Teacher and college student registration; another committee will focus on planning candidates forums. Coastal Carolina

University has offered use of the university facilities for future forums. The Horry County League enjoys a strong reputation for its service to voters and is frequently called on for help with activities like monitoring board elections for district charter schools.

The LWV/Horry County LWV Member at Large Unit actively contributes to the role of the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Coast RTA, the transit agency serving Georgetown and Horry Counties. Beginning in 2008, the Committee met monthly with a focus on improving transit funding and services. It works closely with the Coast RTA Board and staff to address transit concerns, including visibility. Currently, LWVHC member and former Chair Pam Creech is Committee President. Committee members include Ernestine Allen, Gloria Bonali, Elizabeth Fitzgerald and Lutie Floyd from the LWV HCMAL Unit. Efforts are now underway to address local government budget cuts, and to increase public awareness of transit services with the installation of mini exhibits in public libraries.

**LWV/Hilton Head Island** proved that virtual committees work. Their Comprehensive Plan Study Committee worked "virtually," with members working on line. Each member of the committee used his or her computer to study Hilton Head Island's Comprehensive Plan on the town's website. Members were able to check local, state and national League positions on those websites and confer by e-mail. The committee's recommendations for action were presented to the Board of Directors and adopted.

**LWVSC members attended the 7th Annual Conservation Lobby Day on May 4.** Conservationists from around the state traveled to the Statehouse to meet, greet and encourage elected leaders to support the Common Agenda priorities. LWVSC is part of the environmental COMMON AGENDA.

**LWVSC cosponsored a Republican Gubernatorial primary runoff debate on June 17.** The debate was cosponsored with AARP SC. It was aired by WIS TV in Columbia and picked up by other Raycom stations in SC and by CSPAN.

## Membership Initiative Is Off And Running!

*By Janie Shipley,  
LWVSC Vice President, Membership*

The kick-off for the Membership Initiative will be held July 17 and 18, at The Inn at USC in Columbia. Representatives from seven local Leagues will join the state coaching team and board members and staff of LWVUS for a packed, and fun, agenda. The local Leagues that were chosen to participate, and the coaches with whom they will be working are: Charleston (Rebecca Lambert), Clemson (Rebecca Lambert), Columbia (Sue Myers), Darlington (Sue Myers), Georgetown (Joyce Franklin & Rebecca Lambert), Greenville (Joyce Franklin) and Hilton Head Island (Joyce Franklin).

In addition to enhancing their membership recruitment efforts, Leagues will also increase their visibility in their communities, retain more of their current members and have a more strategic approach to program and issue work, through participation in this project.

Each local League will be sending at least two people to receive the training and to become acquainted with the state coach who has been assigned to each League. These League members are truly dedicated, to devote a summer weekend to enhance the well-being of their local Leagues. The national coach, Gini McGirr from Arizona who works with SC coaches will help present the training materials, along with LWVUS staff. Stay tuned - and watch those membership rolls grow, as we embark on this new adventure!

**LWVSC Board Meeting & Retreat will be July 23-24** at Peggy Appler's home on the Edisto River in Dorchester County. The board will combine visioning and planning work for the state League, as well as some fun.



# Forty + League Members Attend Spring Council

On April 24, 2010, members from almost every League met to conduct the official “business” of Council which was the adoption of the 2010-2011 LWVSC budget, but Council is much more than that. It is an opportunity for members to become acquainted with other Leaguers and LWVSC Board members, and receive updates on League programs and issues.

We heard from both League and community experts on a wide variety of issues:

- LWVSC Water Study - Hot Water Issues In South Carolina
- Go Green, Go Transit - You Can Get There From Here
- Getting To Great - Leadership Development & Membership Growth Initiative
- LWVSC School District Study - We Elect School Boards... Don't We?
- How to Register & Turn Out Voters in the Schools
- The League In Action - Reports From LWVSC Policy Specialists
- LWVUS Convention Briefing
- Networking with League leaders

*Our special guest was Mary Klenz, LWVUS Board Director and Liaison to LWVSC.*



Left to right: Janie Shipley, Shayna Howell, Rebecca Lambert, Joyce Franklin and Mary Klenz.



Susan Richards, LWVSC/Transportation and Brittany McMillan Manager for Veolia Transportation, which operates the CMRTA in Columbia, SC.



Della Baker, LWV Clemson Area and Barbara Zia.

## Important Communication Reminders

### Don't Forget to Update Your League's Officers!

We remind you to make sure new leaders do not miss communications from your state and the LWVUS. Please update your new officers' information in the LWVUS database at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). As requested by you, more titles are now available to denote what your members do as officers for your League. If you need assistance in doing this, please email [membership@lwv.org](mailto:membership@lwv.org) or review the online database manual available here.

### Your Email Address: The Key to Being an Informed League Member!

In order to effectively communicate not only within the organization, but also with those outside the League that we want to educate and involve in our activities - we need to be able to operate with what

technology offers us! And so, more and more Leagues are conveying important information via electronic means. From local Voters to legislative action alerts, from Program Planning materials to Board reports! And why not? It's quick, inexpensive, timely, and helps information be easily transferred to others!

In order not to be left out of important information streams, we urge members to keep in mind:

1. **Members share their email address with the League and keep it current in the national database, and**
2. **Leagues are mindful and prudent about how much email is sent each month to our members so as not to wear out our welcome!**

For example, LWVUS does not sell or trade member email addresses! One email is sent each month with the online

newsletter the *LeagueVoice* to all members with email addresses. LWVUS also sends occasional national action alerts to those on its grassroots lobby list and leaders receive a regularly timed update once a week. Email is also easily deleted if you don't want to read it. But if you don't receive it - you may miss out on important League materials!

Be sure the League has your current email address! Individual members can add their own email address to the national database through the national website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and then go to “For Members” and then “Update Your Information”. Or your League can also update your information or add your email address to the records. Be sure to let your League know you want to receive electronic information and give them your email address!

## Keller Barron attended the recent LWVUS Convention and reminisces about her time serving on the LWVUS Board.

### *She writes:*

*"I was delighted to attend the 90th Convention of the LWVUS in Atlanta. There was a panel of all the living former national presidents. The first president I served under was Lucy Wilson Benson, on the speaker's platform. To her left is Mary Wilson, the outgoing president, and to her right Carolyn Jefferson. Ruth Hinderfeld, Dot Ridings, Nancy Newman, Becky Cain and Susan Lederman were also there.*

*I met Lucy in Vermont when my husband Sherrod and I were visiting Dot and Ed Yaghjian. We visited under the cool trees all afternoon, talking about many things, including the LWVSC and the LWVUS. I had just finished my term as state president, 1967-71.*

*After that meeting, I was delighted when Lucy called and asked me to fill an unexpired term on the national board (thanks to Dot!). I was on the LWVUS board from 1971-1976, chairing the campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, 1972-1976. Do any of you remember when Lucy Wilson Benson addressed a joint session of the SC General Assembly? Happy Memories! Keller"*



**Keller Barron,**  
LWV/Columbia Area member at  
LWVUS convention in Atlanta.

### **The following are two Op-Ed pieces prepared by LWVSC leaders that were printed in major newspapers.**

**Barbara Zia and Eleanor Hare wrote the following guest column that was printed by THE STATE newspaper the week after the June Republican Primary Run off.**

## Safeguarding the Vote

In 2010 the League of Women Voters is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Suffrage leaders formed the League in the same year that women won voting rights. Our founders understood the need for a nonpartisan organization that would engage citizens in all aspects of government, including voting, the most fundamental citizen right and responsibility in our democracy.

Given our proud legacy of working to ensure the fullest participation of every eligible citizen in our nation's democratic processes, the League in South Carolina is troubled by allegations of nasty campaign tactics and election fraud that marked our 2010 primary elections. The League believes that public confidence in the integrity of our state's political and election systems is at stake. These concerns lead us to call on our state's leaders to take steps to assure citizens that every vote counts accurately.

After a careful study of the voting machines used in South Carolina, the League found that these machines fail to meet verifiability requirements, including the ability to recount the vote and provide a voter-verifiable paper audit trail. Paperless voting machines, such as the ones we use, are inherently unsatisfactory because there is no guarantee that the votes reported by the machine are the same as the votes that were cast.

The technology used by South Carolina voting machines, direct recording

electronic (DRE), has been widely criticized by experts because of the lack of a voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT). Many states have adopted more verifiable technology, leaving South Carolina as one of a handful of states that still use only paperless voting machines without a VVPAT.

A major problem with our state's voting machines is that the ballots seen by the voter are not retained so that they can be recounted. If a recount is required by law, only the paper ballots (absentee, provisional, failsafe) are actually recounted. The totals from the first count of the vote are read a second time and added to the totals from the paper ballots. It is very misleading to call this procedure, which does not reexamine any of the votes cast on the voting machines, a "recount."

In the primary election in Pickens County, though one race was won by a 2-vote margin, 2191 of the 2288 votes cast in that race were not reexamined in the "recount" because they were cast on the voting machines. The 97 paper ballots were rescanned rather than examined by hand. The Franken-Coleman U.S. Senate election in Minnesota should teach us that scanners and people sometimes see ballots differently.

The ability to accurately recount the results of an election is essential to democracy. Without the ability to recount the ballots there is no way to be certain that the vote reported is the same as the vote cast. There is no way to know that

the reported result is correct. The inability to recount the vote is an immense flaw in voting equipment and should disqualify any such equipment from use.

Voting machines are computers and are subject to both flaws and strengths associated with computers. It is well known to computer scientists that it is impossible to guarantee that complex software, such as that in a voting machine, always works correctly. When the accuracy of the result is important, as with results of voting, the voting machine alone cannot be trusted to always give the correct result. A paper trail is a necessity.

Our State Election Commission claims that there have been no problems with the voting machines in South Carolina. Since there is no way to recount the vote and no way to match the results against the voters' intentions, their conclusion is baseless. The time has come to admit the faults in our voting system and begin the process of replacing our system with one that allows the vote to be verified, recounted and audited. Our democracy depends on it.

Over the last 90 years, the actions of the League of Women Voters have strengthened our democracy. We look forward to continuing to strengthen democracy in South Carolina in the coming years. Affirming public trust in our democratic system of government is critical to that end.

Janet Marsh and Rita Paul wrote the following guest column that was printed by THE POST AND COURIER on July 6, 2010

## Budget Cuts Are Fraying S.C. Children's Safety Net

While South Carolinians may disagree in attitudes and opinions on various issues, we all share similar values.

One such value is that our children should live in a safe and healthy environment, nourished and cared for by loving adults. A second point on which most of us would agree is that when the adults with whom children live do not provide a safe and healthy environment, they must be moved to another environment that will provide these needed protections.

Protection of our most vulnerable citizens, whether young children, the elderly or the disabled, is a fundamental element of a civil and democratic society.

In South Carolina, the General Assembly mandates that the S.C. Department of Social Services (DSS) provide that protective mission "to ensure the safety and health of children who cannot protect themselves." Providing protective and healing environments to children who have been traumatized for years costs money -- a third point on which most of us would agree.

Yes, sometimes a relative or close friend accepts this role and costs may be reduced. Sadly, most children are not so fortunate. In the past year, the Legislature reduced the DSS budget by more than \$48 million, drastically affecting all services for children and families. However, the number of children in Child Protective Services jumped from 9,170 in 2008 to 12,316 in 2009.

A fourth point on which most citizens would agree is that, as the number of children served increases, budgets should not be decreased. Some would say they should be increased to retain well-qualified DSS staff, children's specialists, foster homes -- important elements of a societal protective safety net for children.

A fifth and final point of agreement among most citizens is they are tired of legislator excuses for the inadequacy of our state's required services. Legislators have dealt with the shrinking budget by across-the-board cuts to all state-administered programs.

This Band-aid approach saves them from thinking and prioritizing which

services the state must fulfill versus those that can be reduced. It also ignores the fact that when DSS is unable to "match" federal funds with state dollars, the state (and our children) lose out on those funds to support required services. Probably little can be done now until we have some new faces in the Legislature in January.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina (LWVSC) urges all readers to be aware of this gaping hole in the state's protective safety net for children. Be aware that too many children will slip through this gaping hole before the Legislature reconvenes. Many of these "too many" children will face bleak futures because they did not receive the help they needed from us.

A second consequence is that someone, that is, taxpayers, will have to find far greater funds in the future for remedial measures.

Please join the LWVSC in recognizing our collective responsibility for the most vulnerable among us, and tell your legislators you want a strong state protective safety net for children.

# IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES:

## July 2010

23rd-24th

Friday evening - Saturday, *LWVSC Board Retreat*,  
Home of Peggy Appler on the Edisto River,  
Dorchester County  
(For details, contact Barbara Zia, 803.251.2726) \*

## August 2010

21st Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. *League Leader's Day*,  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall,  
1715 Bull St., Columbia.

26th Thursday, *Women's Equality Day*

## September 2010

17th Friday, *U.S. Constitution Day*

## October 2010

Dates to be announced, *LWVSC Conference: Achieving an Independent and Diverse Judiciary in South Carolina*.  
Charleston School of Law, Charleston.  
Co-sponsored with Charleston School of Law and Riley Institute, Furman University.

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



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®



# LWV SC Voter

Post Office Box 8453  
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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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## LWVSC took part in "Enough Is Enough"

The rally for public education funding - on April 14 at the Statehouse.



Left to Right: Sarah Leverette, Suzanne Rhodes, Jan Crangle, Karen Utter, and Janie White.



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

Join the League today!