



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

# SC Voter

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## LEAGUE LEGACY MARKS LWVSC

# 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

By Betsy Oakman,  
*LWVSC Past Presidents Oral History Project*

South Carolina's first state LWV, organized in 1920, disbanded twelve years later. In 1951, Harriet Simons of Charleston founded the LWVSC as we know it today. And so we are celebrating the state League's 60th birthday this year in a special way. Some of you longtime members will recall the *LWVSC's Proud Heritage*, published in 1976, which profiled several of our earlier state presidents. Time has taken its toll on some of the women who followed in the footsteps of those earlier presidents. The deaths of several South Carolina League leaders reinforced the need to establish a record of the recent history of the state organization.

The growing popularity of using oral histories to preserve a permanent record of past events led Keller (Bumgardner) Barron, a former state president herself, to approach the LWVSC board of directors with the idea of interviewing past state presidents about their impressions of their time in office. The state board liked the idea and decided to initiate the Past Presidents Oral History Project in celebration of the 60th anniversary of its recognition by the LWVUS.

Keller brought together a committee of Columbia Leaguers – Sej Harman, Lucille Mould, and Betsy Oakman – early in 2011 to plan the project.

Throughout the spring, the committee, with the help of longtime Spartanburg League members Linda Bilanchone, Nancy Moore and Mary Miles, recorded interviews with nine former state presidents who served in succession from 1977 through 2011: Joy Sovde, Judy Thompson, Linda Bilanchone, Mary Kelly, Joyce Wiley (Elhassani), Mary Ann Burt, Laurel Suggs, Sheila Haney and Barbara Zia. (Health reasons prevented the participation of Nan Smyth, president from 1987 to 1989; and Marge West, who served

**LWVSC 60TH BIRTHDAY** *continued on page 3*



Sen. John E. Courson and Rep. James E. Smith, Jr., presented a House and Senate resolution honoring LWVSC to the current co-presidents. From left, Peggy Brown, Rep. Smith, Sen. Courson, Barbara Zia.

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

Join the League today!





**Barbara Zia**  
Co-President, LWVSC

In South Carolina, League members reflect our state’s rich diversity. But one thing we all share in common is a belief that the right of all citizens to vote should be protected. To that end we support changes to election laws and procedures that will simplify and speed up the voting process for all voters, while at the same time ensuring the integrity and accuracy of elections. For these reasons, the LWVSC supports no-excuse early voting at least 15 days before elections and opposes South Carolina’s voter photo identification law that is currently under review by the U.S. Department of Justice. It’s also why the LWVSC has implemented a member taskforce to recommend changes to the state’s electronic voting system, and initiated a citizens committee audit of the accuracy of the vote count from the November 2010 General Election. And it’s the reason our 11 local Leagues are teaming with the state and national League to undertake a youth voter registration project in South Carolina.

The League has long been concerned about the rate at which our youth participate in voting and more broadly in our democracy. Despite some increase in participation among younger voters, in November 2008, more than half of our nation’s 18-year-old citizens were still not registered to vote. Overall, Americans under the age of 30 remain severely underrepresented in the electorate, and the

## Co-President’s Perspectives:

### Who Should Vote?

disparities in youth voting grow even wider when looking at African-Americans, Latinos, and those with no college experience.

Voter registration is the key, but most youth registration drives target students attending four-year colleges or universities, skewing towards the disproportionately White college population and missing the millions of Americans with no four-year college experience. We are excited for this opportunity to register and engage America’s future voters while they are still in high school or attending community colleges or alternative/vocational schools.

Suffragist leaders formed the League in 1920 to engage and inform newly enfranchised women—and all voters—about the responsibilities of citizenship. (You can find a brief history of the suffrage movement and the major role that the League played in South Carolina at <http://lwvsc.org/files/suffrage.pdf>.)

Since our founding, the League has fought fearlessly on behalf of the rights of all citizens to participate fully in our democracy. That’s why we are alarmed by the avalanche of new laws and bills restricting the right to vote in states across the country, including South Carolina’s photo ID requirement.

As the 2012 elections approach, many voters could be affected by changes to voting laws. In South Carolina, the citizens whose voting rights are most in jeopardy from photo ID are poor, rural, elderly, disabled or student.

This raises an important question: *Who should vote?* Should poor (or student or elderly—Choose your demographic) citizens be allowed to vote? Chris Kromm in the online journal *Facing South* reports arguments that citizens of lesser means should be denied the franchise. For example, media pundit Matthew Vadum in a piece at *American Thinker*, “Registering the Poor to Vote is Un-American,” claims that “Registering [the poor] to vote is like

handing out burglary tools to criminals.” Equating the poor with criminality implies that the wealthy are resistant to crime. There are even calls to go back to a system in the U.S. where voting is limited to citizens who own property.

These themes also suggest that if you are poor you necessarily lack the ability to understand the issues before the electorate and make informed decisions about who’s on the ballot. This kind of thinking flies in the face of American values.

A larger issue is not whether certain groups of voters—such as low-income, student, elderly – are more or less qualified, but fear that they won’t vote the “correct way.” A veteran pol once told me that he didn’t care to increase voter registration and turnout because the current voters kept him in office – and his colleague on the other side of the aisle felt the same way about his voters.

As Judith Browne-Dianis of the Advancement Project reminds us, “Our democracy is supposed to be a government by, of and for the people. It doesn’t matter how much money you have, what race you are or where you live in the country – we all get to have the same amount of power by going into the voting booth on Election Day.”

Remember – Until 1920 American women were considered unfit, intellectually and emotionally, to vote.

*Barbara*



## LWVSC 60TH BIRTHDAY

continued from page 1 –



Candy Waites, event emcee led celebrants in a toast to the League in South Carolina – its first and next 60 years.

from 1989 to 1993, died in 2006.) Sej Harman transcribed the taped interviews and Betsy Oakman edited the transcriptions, which were collected into a booklet, *League Legacy*, published by the LWVSC. Sej designed and did the layout for the book. The transcriptions and booklet, together with files, records and photographs donated by several former presidents, were presented on September 30 as a contribution to the South Carolina Political Collections in the Hollings Library at the University of South Carolina.

Close to 100 people attended the presentation last Friday night and the gala champagne reception that followed which was organized by Lucille Mould. I'm sure all those who attended will agree it was a special evening for the state League.

Harriet Williams, daughter of state League founder Harriet Simons, was an honored guest and spoke to the audience about her recollections of her mother. Sen. John Courson and Rep. James Smith read a proclamation recognizing the LWVSC for 60 years of valuable study and action on public policy and voter service. Former state representative and former Columbia League president, Candy Waites, introduced the guests, and a panel of four former state presidents gave special reminiscences of their time in office.

The product of all this effort – *League Legacy: Conversations with Past Presidents, 1977-2011* – gives ample evidence of the diverse backgrounds of our former state presidents as well as their common commitment to progressive public policy and their belief that active citizen participation can lead to a more responsive government. Membership in



Herbert Hartsook, Director of SC Political Collections, paid tribute to the League and spoke of the LWVSC historical records that are housed in the USC collection and accessible to scholars and the general public alike.



Keller Barron presented University Libraries Dean Thomas McNally with *League Legacy: Conversations with Presidents, 1977-2011* for the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library.

the League has added new dimensions to their lives on both a personal level and in their interaction with the outside world. It has provided them excellent training in developing leadership skills they have put to use in their professional careers, while at the same time they have learned about – and in some cases become experts on – how government functions at all levels.

Your own copy of *League Legacy* is available for \$10, cash or check (made out to the LWVSC). Not only is it a fascinating look at LWVSC's leaders but also a significant contribution to the archival history of the LWV in South Carolina. Contact Barbara Zia (803-251-2726; [ziab1@comcast.net](mailto:ziab1@comcast.net)) if you would like to place an order.



League leaders from Darlington joined in honoring the League: (from left) Ralphine Boston; Joyce Franklin, LWV/Darlington County president; Dorothy Quist; Sheila Haney, past LWVSC president.



Joining in the evening's festivities were: in front, Mary Kelly, past LWVSC president; behind Mary, from left, Peggy Brown, LWVSC Co-President; Keller Barron, Past Presidents Oral History Project Committee member and former LWVSC president; Barbara Zia, LWVSC co-president; Thomas F. McNally, Dean, USC Libraries; Harriet S. Williams, daughter of Harriet Porcher Simons, LWVSC founder in 1951; Judith Thompson, former LWVSC president; Sej Harman, Betsy Oakman and Lucille Mould, Past Presidents Oral History Project Committee members; Mary Ann Burt and Sheila Haney, past LWVSC presidents.



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# LWVSC Examines the Evaluation and Retention of Effective Teachers in our Public Schools

By Jon Butzon and Peggy Huchet, Study Co-Chairs

The state LWV study got off to an energetic start at the first meeting of the study committee on September 10th in Columbia. This two-year study was adopted by League members at the April 2011 state League Convention.

The study's purpose is to examine the movement to evaluate and compensate teachers based on what the students in their classroom have learned. Across the nation, school districts and states are instituting new evaluation systems that hold teachers accountable for the academic growth of their students. Not surprisingly, the change is quite controversial. Yet we know that SC is poised to follow.

## The study has three goals:

1. Propose one or more positions for consensus and action.
2. Raise public interest and knowledge about the issues surrounding teacher effectiveness and evaluation.
3. Stimulate a dialog across the state among the public and members of the education community, i.e., teachers, school administrators, school board, SC Department of Education.

The committee decided to focus on goal #1 this year and to take up Goals #2 and 3 in the study's second year. Committee members will spend the next several months researching three broad questions and informing League members about their findings:

1. Who should be evaluated? How often? Evaluation purpose? By whom? Training of evaluators?
2. What factors should the evaluation process be based on? What measures should be used? What are the elements of a fair evaluation system?
3. What are the desired outcomes of an effective evaluation process? What is the role of the evaluation process in training and retaining effective teachers?

## Here is what the committee hopes to accomplish this year:

- Committee members will create written reports on their findings. We will organize the research findings and make them available to League members on the LWVSC website.
- Based on the research findings, we will develop consensus questions and submit them to the LWVSC board.
- Local Leagues will hold consensus meetings. The committee will prepare a presentation for those meetings.
- [Consensus is a process in which members participate in a group discussion on an issue. As defined by the League, consensus is substantial member agreement. Consensus is the sense of the group rather than a majority opinion. A League position or action program is the result of the League's consensus on its study topic, reached after thorough study and group discussion.]
- The study committee will compile and analyze member responses at the

consensus meetings and identify areas of agreement. We will then draft a proposed position statement and write a report.

- The position statement will be submitted to the LWVSC members for possible adoption.

In the coming months, it is highly likely that the South Carolina Superintendent of Education will propose revisions to the state's teacher evaluation process incorporating performance-based standards. And proposed legislation will not be far behind. We think it is important for the LWVSC to have a position on these matters and to participate in the debate – so important that we anticipate asking local Leagues to hold consensus meetings early in 2012 and want to bring a position statement to the members at the League Council meeting in April.

The Study Committee members who are taking on this very ambitious schedule are: Jon Butzon, Paula Egelson and Peggy Huchet, LWV Charleston Area; Paula Appling, LWV Clemson Area; Sally Huguley and Janelle Rivers, LWV Columbia Area; and Pat Borenstein and Jan Welch, LWV Greenville County.

Watch for reports of the committee's progress on the LWVSC website, <http://www.lwvsc.org/> and plan to participate in a consensus meeting coming soon to a location near you! Got questions or comments? Contact Jon at [cen@charlestonednet.com](mailto:cen@charlestonednet.com) or Peggy at [mhuchet@comcast.net](mailto:mhuchet@comcast.net).

## Criminal Justice Update

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

Merger of the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services is likely to be back on the agenda in the upcoming legislative session. Although the plan to merge the two agencies was supported by Governor Nikki Haley and Judge Bill Byars, director of the Department of Corrections, the merger did not make it to floor debate by the end of the session.

The proposed merger is believed to be an important step in fully implementing the Sentencing Reform Legislation,

passed in 2010. As Senator Mike Fair has stated, "the real savings (in money) would come from a change in philosophy at a combined agency, which would send few criminals to state prison" (Corrections Reporter, June 16, 2011). For the most part, non-violent offenders would be placed on intensive community supervision instead of behind bars, and non-violent offenders currently incarcerated might be moved to community supervision more quickly. Community supervision is estimated to cost \$3,000 – 4,000 a year per inmate

compared to \$17,000-18,000 to lock them up in a state prison.

Another legislative initiative that has been carried over from last session is H. 3757, the Human Trafficking bill. Crimes involving human trafficking have been identified in Charleston, Myrtle Beach, Columbia, Greenville and Spartanburg. The legislation, which was introduced in February 2011, is currently in the House Judiciary Committee. A coalition, including the League of Women Voters, is continuing to work on refining the bill and raising awareness of the extent of the problem.

# Recycling Makes Dollars and Sense

By Jan Hammett, LWVSC Director, Natural Resources

*"If my walks take me along the roads and streams, I see also the trash and the junk, carelessly manufactured and carelessly thrown away, the glass and the broken glass, the plastic and the aluminum that will lie here longer than the lifetime of trees— longer than the lifetime of our species, perhaps."*

— WENDELL BERRY

In my work as a Recycling Educator with Spartanburg County schools, I begin most presentations asking students: What do you do with your trash? They take me through the typical steps of throwing it away in the garbage can and trash collectors taking it away. Then I ask, Away to where? Some proudly give the correct answer, the landfill. Again I ask, isn't it still there? Doesn't that mean there truly is, no "away"? Unless we recycle it, we merely transfer it and landfill it.

As population grows, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) – garbage – will grow proportionately. In 2009, Americans produced about 243 million tons of MSW, or about 4.3 pounds of waste per person per day. Everyday, packaging, clothing, bottles, cans, food scraps, newspapers and other paper supplies are merely thrown into the trash. There, mountains of lost commodities such as aluminum, glass,

and paper will lie dormant.

Recycling can make new products and reduce the amount of new raw materials needed. Not only is recycling beneficial for the environment, it is great for the economy. The U.S. Recycling Economic Information (REI) Study was commissioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with numerous states to determine the economic benefits of recycling to the national economy. The study was completed in 2001. According to the study, the recycling and reuse industry nationwide includes more than 56,000 establishments. Together the businesses employ 1.1 million people, generating an annual payroll of \$37 billion and gross \$236 billion in annual sales.

In South Carolina, the Alcoholic Beverage Container (ABC) Recycling Bill, S.461, sponsored by Sen. Ray

Cleary, would create thousands of new jobs in the state and reduce the amount of trash we send to landfills. S.461 calls for establishments that have a permit for on-site consumption of alcohol to implement a recycling program in the next two years for plastic, corrugated cardboard, aluminum and glass. It also calls for these establishments to develop recycling plans guided by SCDHEC. This bill has passed the Senate and will go to the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee in the next legislative session.

League members, this is a perfect opportunity to ASK your legislators in the SC House to show their support for recycling because it makes dollars and sense. Recycling is and will be a part of our lives. Future generations will live with the choices we make today.

## Environmental Groups Develop Annual Conservation Common Agenda

By Chester Sansbury, LWVSC Conservation Common Agenda Coordinator

For the seventh year the Conservation Voters of SC (CVSC) will lead efforts by environmental organizations, including LWVSC, to develop positions on high priority issues to be pursued in meetings with members of both houses of our SC General Assembly. These meetings with environmental organization presentations coordinated by CVSC staff usually occur in early January near the beginning of the year's session. They are then followed by common agenda Legislative lobby days by each organization.

Representatives of numerous organizations, including Jan Hammett,

Peggy Brown, Suzanne Rhodes, and several others from the LWVSC will convene on October 7th in Columbia to consider and adopt positions on issues dealing with waste management and recycling, water quality protection, energy policies, coastal permitting and wetlands issues, and land development and growth issues. Anyone from the League interested in participating is encouraged to visit the CVSC web site at <http://www.conservationvotersofsc.org/> or contact Debbie Parker of the CVSC at [Debbie@cvsc.org](mailto:Debbie@cvsc.org) for more details.

In addition to the Common Agenda

meeting, the CVSC is planning an annual meeting of conservation organization leaders at Camp St. Christopher, Seabrook Island, on November 6-7. Debbie Parker is soliciting suggestions for brief speaking topics for the meeting. This meeting will be a chance for attendees to learn more about many conservation challenges and issues we face. League leaders have attended this productive annual meeting before.

If you have questions, please contact Chester Sansbury at [CSANSBURY1@sc.rr.com](mailto:CSANSBURY1@sc.rr.com) or Jan Hammett at [jjhammett7@att.net](mailto:jjhammett7@att.net).

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# My View: I-73 Pulling the Plug on Outdated Projects is Never Easy

By Donna Ambrose, LWVSC Director, Transportation

My worries about relocating 3000 miles from my home in the West to live in South Carolina quickly gave way to excitement when I saw its many natural and historic treasures.

Even the oppressive humidity couldn't dampen my enthusiasm for the miles of beautiful and accessible sandy beaches, or for the city of Charleston where with every step taken, South Carolina's rich heritage, is magically reborn. That immediately started me thinking.

The recent global recession is a game changer. We are living today in a world where individuals, businesses and governments face fierce competition for jobs and businesses. And, where finite economic and environmental resources, make innovation, fiscal responsibility and managing for long-term sustainability a necessity, not an option.

So, how does a state, where the past still remains so firmly embedded in its culture, institutions and politics adapt to the challenges of this new and rapidly changing future?

In part, I got that answer when I began observing how the South Carolina Department of Transportation and the Transportation Commission handles the recent I-73 project. It doesn't.

It is not uncommon for government and transportation organizations around the country to plan and build inefficient transportation systems and to construct roads to nowhere. This in large part is due

to knee-jerk reactions by leaders to an immediate problem without studying long-term consequences.

Mostly though, it is a product of legal hoops and political processes being so slow that the requested project has long since become less necessary or even obsolete. Sheer momentum over time, resulting from things such as staff and leadership turnover and financial earmarks, generally carries the project forward even when it shouldn't. Stopping these projects from going forward is not easy. It takes hard work, strong leadership and political courage. It takes hard work, strong leadership and political courage as demonstrated by Transportation Commissioner Sarah Nuckles, the only member of the commission to oppose I-73 and advocate for smarter, more efficient transportation planning.

What is happening with the SCDOT's dogged determination to move forward with the I-73 project may be explained in part by those things I mentioned above. While that is no excuse for moving this project forward, it makes even less sense to proceed when, 1) there are serious cost/benefit concerns, 2) it is placing a long-term debt burden on the state, 3) there are less costly transportation alternatives, 4) it may restrict the state from taking on more pressing and beneficial transportation projects.

As one example of changing priorities, South Carolina, thanks to the forward

thinking and hard work of some local economic development professionals and legislators, has an opportunity to rapidly advance the state's economy. The Boeing Company and other new members of the growing aerospace cluster, along with the promise of a new composite technology industry, will dramatically change the face of the Charleston area environment and economy. The benefits are obvious--more local jobs and a higher standard of living that will carry over to the entire state.

But so too are the challenges. An overburdened road and public transportation system in the Charleston area has the potential to limit future business and economic growth and degrade the environment and quality of life for local residents.

Getting ahead of this situation is crucial and will require hard work and innovative ideas from the SCDOT, regional transit agencies, local municipalities, major businesses and citizen representatives. Most important the process must be transparent and allow for innovation of cost efficient and effective transportation solutions.

To best serve the needs of South Carolina and all its citizens, today's leaders must be more fiscally prudent and responsive to current priorities and future needs and more willing to pull the plug on projects whose time has passed.

## Advancing the Agenda - Campaign Training Workshops

The Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics will host four regional campaign training schools this fall. All trainings are non-partisan, issue-neutral, and conducted by trainers with deep experience in South Carolina politics. Trainings cover the five key features of a campaign: campaign management, fundraising, grassroots organization, the Internet and social media, creating and managing your message. They offer an excellent overview of the campaign process and benefit candidates, prospective candidates, campaign workers, non-profit organizations and individuals seeking to define and execute a campaign--political or issue-based.

- **October 1st**  
Charleston School of Law, Charleston
- **October 15th**  
Coastal Carolina University, Conway
- **October 29th**  
McNair Law Firm, Columbia
- **November 12th**  
Furman University, Upstate

For details, visit [www.scelectswomen.com/events/](http://www.scelectswomen.com/events/). 2012 offers an opportunity to effect important changes in South Carolina. Encourage more women to become effective politically.



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# Voting Equipment: *An Overview*

By Eleanor Hare, PhD, and Duncan Buell, PhD, Chairs, LWVSC Alternative Voting System Taskforce

The types of voting equipment in use in the US can be classified into general categories, based on how requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 are fulfilled. Two requirements that affect voting equipment in precincts are:

1. The voter must be notified when s/he attempts to cast a vote for more than the maximum number of selections allowed in a contest (an overvote), and
2. Every polling place must have an Americans with Disabilities (ADA)-compliant piece of voting equipment.

In addition to the precinct equipment, every county uses scanners to count paper ballots. The scanner may be high speed or low speed, optical or digital, and scanners from different manufacturers provide different features, but the required function is that paper ballots be scanned. Scanners may be programmed to recognize choices or a particular ballot or may recognize characters printed on plain paper. The type of voting machine used in the precinct usually determines the type and manufacturer of the scanner.

## Technologies in Use at the Precinct Level

1. **Direct Register Electronic (DRE)** voting machines are special-purpose computers that record the voter's choices electronically in internal memories. The DRE prevents an overvote from occurring. Every precinct has a DRE with an attached audio capability in order to provide ADA-compliance for the visually impaired. Since the DRE does not use a paper ballot, recounts and audits are generally not done.

All voting machines in South Carolina are DREs manufactured by Elections Systems and Software (ES&S). Each county in SC also owns one or more optical scanners manufactured by ES&S.

A modification to some DREs provides an add-on paper tape roll,

similar to a grocery store tape, where the voter's choice is printed each time the voter makes a selection (or de-selection).

2. **Paper ballots** together with an **Accessible Ballot Marking Device (BMD)** for ADA-compliance require a scanner at each precinct to notify the voter of overvotes. Accessible BMDs typically provide an extensive collection of mechanisms to assist voters with physical disabilities<sup>i</sup>. The ballot size and contrast on the screen can also be changed. Voters who do not use the BMD mark their paper ballot by hand. All voters feed their ballots into a scanner, which rejects those ballots with overvotes and retains valid ballots. The voter can receive a new ballot to replace a rejected one.

Paper ballots that are seen by the voter and retained for a possible recount or audit constitute a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). The LWV position<sup>ii</sup> includes a requirement for VVPAT.

## Vote-by-Mail (VBM)

Because ballots are mailed to all registered voters, there is limited need for precincts. Voters return their ballots by mail or to drop boxes at designated collection places. Disabled voters are provided with several means of voting, including receiving a CD of the ballot mailed to their home, where the voter can print a ballot from their home computer. Accessible Computer Stations (ACS) are available in voting centers or can be carried to a voter's residence by election workers. An ACS provides extensive capabilities for disabled voters.

## Technology Under Development

The PRIME III, being developed at Clemson University, is software that turns any computer into an ADA-compliant voting machine. The PRIME III prints the voter's selections to a blank sheet of

paper. (The BMD requires a pre-printed ballot.) The PRIME III detects an overvote before printing a summary ballot, which lists only those candidates selected by the voter and yes/no responses to referendums. A scanner uses character recognition to read the printed names and retains the ballot for audit and/or recount.

Washington and Oregon, in collaboration to improve voting for persons with disabilities, are considering using an iPad to help them vote more easily.

## The Old and the New

Mechanical lever machines are no longer in use anywhere in the U.S. and punch card voting systems, although outlawed by HAVA, are reported to still be in use in a few counties. Many improvements in accessibility have been incorporated into voting machines since 2002 and the types of available assistance are becoming somewhat standardized. In order to protect against fraud and malfunctioning equipment, some state legislatures are requiring random audits of the vote. Such an audit generally requires a specific set of samples to be counted by hand and compared against the totals generated by the machine in order to provide a statistical confidence level in the machine results.

Any new system should meet or exceed the Federal Election Assistance Commission 2005 voting standards. (The ES&S system used in SC does not.) Examination of voting systems in other states and encouraging research in progress optimistically predict that our next voting system will be a vast improvement over the existing one.

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<sup>i</sup>Audio for voters who are blind, sip/puff switches which allow the voter to use their breath to perform mouse clicks, joysticks, custom keypads with large buttons, and large print ballots.

<sup>ii</sup><http://lwwsc.org/files/electiontech.pdf>

# LWVSC LEADERSHIP TEAM

## 2011-2013



*Some of the LWVSC leadership team that gathered for the Oct. 1st Board meeting--Front row from left, Eleanor Hare, JoAnne Day, Sheila Gallagher, Barbara Zia, Rita Paul, Janie Shipley; back row, Carole Cato, Suzanne Rhodes, Jon Butzon, Dianne Haselton, Robin Kimbrough-Melton, Peggy Brown.*

### OFFICERS

**Peggy Brown, LWVSC Co-President**, is a native of Illinois and relocated to Florence, South Carolina in the mid 70's a young wife and mother of two. She worked in the home until the early 80's when she began a career in real estate that lasted approximately 10 years. She left the real estate field to be more available to her family and worked as an executive secretary in administration at a regional medical center for 24 years. Currently she is up-fitting a historical building as part of Florence's downtown revitalization project for a coffee shop/art gallery and studio. She is a lover of the arts and a potter. She is known in her community as an environmental activist, and enjoys gardening, walking in the woods, kayaking, and bicycling. Peggy is relatively new to the League having joined in 2005; she began her service on the LWVSC board in 2007 as one of the natural resources directors, until this May when she accepted the challenge of state co-president with Barbara Zia.

**Barbara Zia, LWVSC Co-President**, was president of the LWV/Charleston Area from 2002 until 2007. She was K-12 Education Director for the LWVSC and was elected president of that organization in 2007 and served in that role until 2011. Her professional experience includes teaching in elementary, preschool and higher education programs, consulting to Head Start, and educational research and evaluation projects. She is active in community service projects, including committees for the Charleston County School District, boards of the LWV in Massachusetts and South Carolina, and Charleston County First Steps.

**Della Baker**, member of the LWV/Clemson Area, is serving in her first term as **LWVSC Secretary**. She has served in various capacities since joining the local league in 2002: Secretary, Co-chair of the Membership Team, member of the Annual Meeting Planning Team,

member of the Nominating Committee, Member of the Program and Action Team and President. Della serves as the State Extension Program Leader for Evaluation, Accountability & Staff Development for the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service.

Della received her PhD in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, M.Ed. in Instructional Media from the University of South Carolina, and a Master of Ministry degree from Anderson University. She is Chair and Founder of Women's Ministries of the Upstate. She is an Organization Development and Strategic Planning Consultant and has led sessions for churches, profit and non-profit groups, and national professional organizations.

**Dianne H. Haselton** is in her ninth year as **LWVSC Treasurer** and is a member of LWV/Clemson Area. A League member for 42 years, she has served as local president and newsletter editor, as well as state treasurer two different times. Her "1980 BD" (before divorce) experience was as wife, mother and professional volunteer. "1980 AD" (after divorce) she worked in the Agric. Economics Dept. at Clemson University. She began as clerk/steno, took computer programming courses and moved up to Computer Programmer III. After retiring in 1967 she continued to work part time until in her early 70s.

She feels that, in her early years as a League member, exposure to women with varied interests and knowledge was a definite positive alternative to the usual chatter about diaper rash and colic. By tapping her for leadership roles, the League helped her to develop into a self-assured leader, public speaker and organizer. And a big plus has been the great friendships developed over the years.

**JoAnne Day, LWVSC Vice President/Issues and Action**, is a long-time member of the League of Women Voters, first joining in the 1970's. She retired from IBM in 2009, after a long career in the IT industry, including six years at the Lexington Medical Center. She has been active with the LWV/Columbia Area and South Carolina and is currently a board member of the state and her local League. For the past two years she has served as VP of Issues and Action for LWVSC. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood Health Systems, and Pets, Inc.

**Janie Shipley, LWVSC Vice President/Member Services**, is a native of North Carolina, now resides in the Upstate and is a member of LWV of the Clemson Area. She received her undergraduate education from UNC-Greensboro, and master's degree from North Carolina State University. She is the Quality Improvement Manager at the student health center at Clemson University. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Anderson-Oconee Council on Teen Pregnancy Prevention and has completed several terms on the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of South Carolina and Planned Parenthood Health Systems. Janie and her husband live on a small farm in Seneca, SC where they raise blueberries commercially.

**Laurel Suggs serves as LWVSC Vice President/Voters Service and Citizen Education**. Laurel was reared in Columbia and attended Converse College. She has been a principal in the Columbia firm, Insurance Management Group since 1989. She is an employee benefits insurance broker.

Laurel has been a member of the

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## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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Columbia Area League of Women Voters since 1980 when her mother gave her membership as a birthday gift. Her first League job was volunteering for the annual League garage sale. She eventually served 5 years as the Columbia Area League President and 3 terms as state president. She now serves as VP for Voters Service /Citizen Education on the Board. Laurel and her husband Arthur have 2 children and 3 grandchildren who blessedly all live close by.

**Susan Richards, LWVSC Vice President/Community Relations**, is president of SR Concepts, a certified woman-owned business established in 1996 to provide marketing consulting services to the public transportation industry. She has over 20 years experience in marketing and customer service in both the retail and transportation fields. Susan served as past chair and is an active member of the American Public Transportation Association Marketing and Communications Steering Committee and is currently serving as subcommittee chair of marketing on a task force to promote the authorization of the national transportation bill. Susan is also a member of the Community Transportation Association of America, as well as several state and local transportation associations. She joined the LWV/Charleston Area in 1996, serving as president in 1998-2000. As a member of the LWVSC board, she has been an active advocate for local, state and national transportation issues.

## **BOARD DIRECTORS**

**Donna Ambrose** is the newest addition to the LWVSC leadership team. She was appointed **Transportation Director** at the state Board's Oct. 1st meeting and is an LWV/Charleston Area member. Donna has a background spanning public and private sectors, including public transportation, county government and technology fields. She has a proven record of success as director of economic development, government and public affairs and communications. As Executive Director, she innovated and launched a not-for-profit transportation corporation to benefit employees of corporations including Microsoft, SAFECO, and Nintendo in Redmond, WA. Donna has a Bachelor of Science, Business

Administration from Caldwell College, NJ, and a Master of Arts in Policy Studies from the University of Washington. She is a Board member of Solar Pie, a private non-profit organization to educate and promote solar energy.

**Jon Butzon** serves as **LWVSC K-12 Education Director** and is **Co-Chair of the Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers Study Committee**. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, he has lived in Summerville, SC, for more than 30 years. He has two grown children, a son Erik, a supervisor with the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission, and a daughter Colby, a psychologist at the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities in Memphis, TN. He is a retired Naval Officer, a former small business owner, and has been the Executive Director of the Charleston Education Network, an advocate for children and education reform, since its founding in 2000.

**Carole Cato** has served as **LWVSC Advocacy Director** for almost three years. She joined the Columbia Area League in September of 2006 and has served on the board since that time. A Virginia native, she lived most of her life in Charlotte before moving to Columbia nine years ago. She has an Associate Degree in Sales and Marketing and studied Human Development and Learning at the University of NC at Charlotte. Her first year at the university, she served in University Year for ACTION, an inner city VISTA type program. Her passions are much improved public policies for hunger and poverty issues. She served the board of the Charlotte Area Fund (CAA) for 12 years and was chair for three years. She was a member of the founding board of the food bank in Charlotte, where she served nine years as head of Agency Committee, and five additional years as the full-time Community Relations Coordinator.

**Paula Egelson** serves as **LWVSC Director** in charge of the **Youth Voter Registration Project** and as Vice President for LWV/Charleston Area. She is the director of leadership research at the Southern Regional Education Board in Atlanta. She was formerly the director of the Center for Partnerships to Improve Education at the College of Charleston. Paula has an undergraduate degree in child development, a master's degree in reading education, and a doctorate in

educational leadership. She has worked as a community organizer, a school improvement and literacy program director for a federally-funded educational lab, a K-8 classroom teacher, and a reading specialist. She has served as the principal investigator for several large literacy grants. She has a background in research and has developed teacher evaluation, literacy, high school performance assessment, class-size reduction, school improvement and English language learners products for PreK-12 educators.

**Sheila C. Gallagher** serves as **LWVSC Director for Education Governance and Redistricting**. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Winthrop College. While teaching in Florence School District One for 30+ years she earned three masters: University of South Carolina, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Winthrop University. Not only does she have the privilege of serving on the LWVSC Board, she is also secretary of LWV/Florence Area. She serves on the Arts Alliance Board and is president of the Florence County Education Association – Retired. This continues her deep appreciation for the National Education Association & The SCEA where she had the honor of being elected The SCEA president.

**Jan Hammett** serves as **LWVSC Natural Resources Director**. A native South Carolinian, she worked with Eastern Airlines for 10 years in Miami, FL, before coming back to reside and raise a family in her home state. She believes that solid natural resource appreciation and future leaders for the environment will come about by investing in our children and helping them to learn about conservation, growing plants and food, recycling and earth caring. Some of Jan's accomplishments are: SC organizer for [1Sky.org](http://1Sky.org); LWV/Spartanburg County Natural Resources Chair; Spartanburg Conservation Soil and Water Commissioner; Audubon Climate Change Workshop & Advocacy Training, Co-founder, Spartanburg Citizens for Recycling; Recycling Educator, grades K-6.

**Eleanor Hare, LWVSC Web Technology Director**, is a charter member of the LWV/Clemson Area. Before her retirement from Clemson University, she had involved her students in researching

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## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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electronic voting as an application of computer science. After leaving active teaching, she was pleased to have an opportunity to apply her knowledge of electronic voting systems to the 2005-2007 LWVSC study. Eleanor has been a member of the LWVSC Board since 2005. In the past she has also participated in several statewide studies and co-chaired state participation in the immigration study. Her assignment on State Board is “web technology,” maintaining email lists for the State, sending action alerts when requested and continuing to monitor developments in electronic voting. She is active in her local League where she serves as webmaster.

**Robin Kimbrough-Melton** is **LWVSC Criminal/Juvenile Justice Director**, LWV/Clemson member, and a research professor at Clemson University’s Institute on Family & Neighborhood Life. She has long been active in service system reform related to juvenile justice, criminal justice, education, social services, substance abuse services, and the courts. She currently is directing programs to provide assistance to children with incarcerated parents, chairing state and national committees aimed at developing supportive services for families impacted by incarceration, and teaching in the Institute’s PhD program on International Family and Community Studies. She is a prior recipient of the Award for Distinguished Professional Service from the South Carolina Professional Society on Abuse of Children.

**Sarah E. Leverette** is **LWVSC State Governance Director and Co-Coordinator of the Judicial Initiative**. She is an outstanding attorney, educator and community leader who joined the League of Women Voters over 50 years ago and has served South Carolina’s local and state Leagues in leadership roles ever since. She graduated *magna cum laude* from USC School of Law in 1943, one of the state’s first women lawyers. She served as USC School of Law librarian and instructor, becoming the first female faculty member at the law school, where she taught from 1947-72. In the 1970s she served as commissioner and chairman of the South Carolina Industrial Commission, from which she retired in the 1980s.

**Rita G. Paul** serves as **Director for Early Care and Education/Child Welfare** for LWVSC and as LWV/Columbia Area President. She retired in 2008, after working 33 years for the State of South Carolina. While she had various positions, they all in some way related to childcare, early care and education and community development. Her last and most recent position being to serve as the Director for Child Care Licensing with the Department of Social Services. When she was growing up in Bennettsville, SC in the 1950’s and 60’s, she began to understand fully what it means to have a social conscience. It was a tumultuous time and taught her many lessons. This, she believes, is the driving force behind her dedication and passion to playing some small part in making the world a better place for her grandchildren and yours as well. While she believes it is about WHAT you do, it is, and maybe more importantly, the recognition that we are a sustainable society because of the contributions we all make to the whole. She is truly honored to be a part of the LWV of South Carolina.

## **OFF-BOARD DIRECTORS**

**Leadership Training Director Peggy Appler** served as LWVSC Vice-President Community Relations from 2007-2011. She was President of the Miami-Dade County Florida LWV, Director on the Florida State Board and State Chair for the LWVUS National Convention 2002. Peggy served as a Director for the LWV/Charleston Area. She is an active member of her community and serves on the Berkeley County Guardian Ad Litem Foundation Board. Peggy graduated Summa Cum Laude from Barry University in Miami Florida with a Degree in Human Resource Management. A retired Organization Development Trainer with over 25 years of program design and implementation, Peggy conducted programs for the business, government and private sectors. Peggy and her husband moved to South Carolina in 2003.

**Duncan A. Buell** has been **LWVSC Webmaster** since 2007 and also serves as **Election Technology Specialist**. He received the Ph.D. degree in mathematics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He was an assistant and associate professor in the Department of Computer

Science at Louisiana State University. From 1986 to 2000 he worked at the Supercomputing Research Center (now the Center for Computing Sciences), a division of the Institute for Defense Analyses, doing research in high performance computing and computational mathematics. He joined the University of SC in 2000 as a professor and served nine years as chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. He has research interests in electronic voting, digital humanities, and computer science education.

**Suzanne Rhodes, Nuclear Waste Specialist**, has been watching the Savannah River Site for almost 4 decades, starting with support for Dr. Mary Kelly in the 70’s when Mary was LWVSC’s nuclear spokesperson. After obtaining an MPH with a thesis on South Carolina nuclear waste policy, she worked for Governor Riley on energy issues, including nuclear waste policy. After 30 years of various state jobs in waste policy, she is enjoying retirement and updating Mary Kelly’s 1997 Issue Brief, which described the role of the nuclear industry in South Carolina at that time. Suzanne has served her local League, LWV/Columbia Area, in numerous roles, including co-president.

**Holley Ulbrich** is a founding member of the Clemson League and has served several times on state board. Currently she serves as **Off-Board Specialist for State and Local Taxation** with a secondary interest in local government. Holley is Alumni Distinguished Professor Emerita of Economics at Clemson University and continues to teach and do tax policy work at the Strom Thurmond Institute.

**Sheila Haney** serves off-board as **Member-at-Large Coordinator** and is writing the LWVSC’s history. She has a career in education in all grades in public schools and college through 5 states as teacher, supervisor and administrator. She volunteers as a reading tutor for a school and after-school program. During her League membership over 38 years she assisted in formation of 3 local Leagues, including her own in Darlington County. She served on the LWVSC board as VP for Organization-Membership and state President from 2005-2007. She is continuing in a leadership role on the County Coordinating Council created by LWV/Darlington County.

# LWV Efforts to Register and Educate Voters – Full Speed Ahead

By Carole Cato, LWVSC Advocacy Director

The League's message is spreading rapidly: Register every qualified citizen to vote. All that is needed to register is proof of residence. Any one of the following that shows the person's name and current address is acceptable: current utility bill, tax bill, pay stub or check, an official document or letter. Students can obtain their dorm street address from the county voter registration office.

Registration requires no photo ID, no birth certificate and no Social Security card. If the SC Voter ID law is cleared for implementation, registered voters will be notified when they can obtain their free voter registration cards with photo. These cards may be used for voting only. With no expiration date, the cards are always current and valid. Cards will be available at all local county voter registration offices.

As of October 2011, the new S.C. voter photo ID law has not taken effect. The law is still under review by the U.S. Department of Justice. And remember: A photo ID is never required to vote by mail-in absentee ballot.

On September 27, 2011, the SC State Election Commission issued a report saying there are now 216,597 registered voters without a SC photo ID. This is up considerably from 2010's total of 178,175. LWVSC and our partner organizations are making a difference with their voter registration and outreach efforts.

Recent League Voter ID activities include a luncheon speech before the Silver Haired Legislature and presentations to college student organizations, political and community organizations and churches throughout the state. Local Leagues have had excellent print, TV and radio news exposure, with many interviews featured on prime news. Progress is the best motivator, so let's continue building our momentum.

Congratulations to our local Leagues' voters service teams for a job well done in September, Voter Registration Month. We still have a long way to go. However, if LWVSC members and their voting rights partners persevere despite this restrictive law, we can reach many more

unregistered voters and have the largest voter turnout in state history in 2012.

Please contact Carole Cato at [ccato@att.net](mailto:ccato@att.net) if you are interested in organizing voter education events in your communities. Terri Eisman in the Upstate, Ralph Edwards on the Coast, and Carole in the Midlands are available as resources or speakers. The League's *Protect Our Vote* resource materials can be found at <http://lwvsc.org/voterphotoid.html>.

## CORRECTION

The Summer SC VOTER incorrectly stated the position on illegal drug policy that was adopted at the LWVSC Convention on April 15, 2011. The new LWVSC position as adopted is: *Illegal drug use should be considered a public health issue. Drug use and drug addiction should be addressed by substance abuse treatment programs and education instead of incarceration.*

# IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES:

## October 2011

### Voter Education Month

- 8th** Saturday, Last day to register to vote in the General Election in South Carolina.
- 12th** Wednesday, 7 p.m., *A Case for Diversity in South Carolina Courts: A public forum with Hon. Carmen T. Mullen (14th Judicial Circuit); SC Sen. Tom Davis; SC Rep. Andy Patrick; Rep. David Mack, member, Judicial Merit Selection Commission; Kelly Jolley, SC Bar member; Barbara Zia, LWVSC Co-President.* Reception to follow: Visual Performing Arts Center, Hilton Head Island High School, 70 Wilborn Road. Presented by LWV/Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Area.
- 21st** Friday, *Women Lawyers and Leadership: Status and Success in a Changed Profession*, SC Women Lawyers Association's annual conference, featuring Anita Hill, Gloria Felt, and Gloria Steinem. LWVSC is a co-sponsor.

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

## November 2011

- 8th** Tuesday, 7 a.m. - 7p.m., *General Election Day*
- 21st** Monday, 7 p.m., *Program on Judicial Independence and Diversity: Guest Speaker Rebecca Love Kourlis, former Colorado Supreme Court Justice, current Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System.* Reception to follow. Riley Institute, Younts Conference Center, Furman University. Presented by LWV/Greenville County.

## December 2011

- LWVUS sends Program Planning materials to local Leagues.*
- 3rd** Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., *LWVSC Board Meeting*, 1600 St. Julian Place, Columbia\*
- 15th** Thursday, *Bill of Rights Day*



# LWV SC Voter

Post Office Box 8453  
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## The SC Voter

Fall 2011

Volume 61 Issue 2

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

Co-Presidents: Barbara Zia  
Peggy Brown

Editor: Laurel Suggs

Published by: *The League of Women Voters of SC*  
PO Box 8453  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Phone & Fax:  
(803) 251-2726  
Website: [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org)

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## LEAGUE LEADERS DAY



◀ Keller Barron (LWVSC president, 1979-83) led a discussion at League Leaders Day on August 27th with past presidents about challenges and satisfaction during their terms. Seated, from left: Joy Sovde (1977-79); Judith Thompson (1979-83); Linda Bilanchone (1983-85); standing: Keller; Mary Ann Burt (1995-99); Laurel Suggs (1999-2005); Sheila Haney (2005-07).



▲ Donna London, Jim Self Center on the Future at Clemson University's Strom Thurmond Institute, led a panel discussion on the Dollars and Sense of Recycling. From left, Jane Hiller, Sonoco Recycling; Donna; Nancy Ogburn, Tomato Palms; Chantal Fryer, S.C. Department of Commerce; Mary Pat Baldauf, City of Columbia.



▲ Susan Richards facilitated a panel discussion on Planning South Carolina's Future. From left, David Farren, Southern Environmental Law Center; Susan; Arthur Guzzetti, American Public Transportation Assoc.; Sarah B. Nuckles, S.C. Department of Transportation Commission.



▲ A panel of experts addressed Redistricting Issues in South Carolina. From left, Sheila Gallagher, LWVSC Board; Katie O'Connor, ACLU Voting Rights Project; Holley Ulbrich, Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University.



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