



SC Voter

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Website: www.lwvsc.org

Volume 62, Issue 3

Winter 2013

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK COLUMBIA AREA LEAGUE

Celebrates

65



Cynthia Flynn, Past President and Rita Paul, Current President, Columbia Area LWV.



Judy Thompson, former Columbia Area LWV President leads the "VOTE NOTES" in singing "We're a Grand Old League".

Years of Service



Herb Hartsook, Director of the South Carolina Political Collections at South Caroliniana Library and Sarah Leverette, Past President Columbia Area LWV.



Michelle and Beth Bernstein, daughters of former Columbia Area LWV President Carol Bernstein; Jane White and Margaret Ann Dubose, Columbia Area LWV members.



Rita Paul, Current Columbia Area LWV President.

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Join the League today!





Barbara Zia
Co-President, LWVSC

The start of a new year is a wonderful time to take stock, measure progress, and define starting points for the year ahead. Clearly, 2012 was a huge year for the League of Women Voters of South Carolina.

Our statewide membership showed strong growth, with LWV of the Clemson Area leading the way with a 30% increase in membership. Credit for this incredible accomplishment goes to all our members and, in particular, to Janie Shipley who coordinates our Membership and Leadership Development Initiative, to MLD coaches, and to local League membership directors. As a grassroots membership organization, the League's strength resides in the decibel level of our members' voices.

Another busy election season is over and we saw another job well done by Leagues across the state. We registered voters, provided accurate, nonpartisan information about candidates, ballot questions and voting procedures, and organized candidate forums. We did our best to bring balance and civility to the political process.

Act R54, South Carolina's new photo ID law for voters, took center stage in 2012, and the League was in the thick of the legal firestorm. Thanks to unflagging, courageous action by the LWV and our voting rights allies, the federal court approved a weakened version of the original measure that we believe will protect voter rights, if implemented according to the court ruling. In 2013,

Co-President's Perspectives:

Looking Back, Moving Forward

the League will add a new component to our voters service activities: making sure that voters understand changes in the identification process to vote and what they can do to get a photo ID, and ensuring that election officials implement the law properly.

It is important to offer solutions as well as fight back voter suppression tactics. To that end, the national League has identified four pro-active, pro-voter priorities for our 2013 elections administration reform work:

1 Secure Online Voter Registration – South Carolina

initiated online voter registration last October. Unfortunately, it is restricted to those who already have a driver's license, which means that many eligible voters cannot register or update their registrations online.

2 Permanent and Portable Statewide Voter Registration –

This would make an individual's registration permanent and portable within a state.

3 Early Voting – Currently, South Carolina lacks no-excuse early voting.

In her advocacy report in this issue, Lynn Teague describes encouraging efforts to pass an early voting measure that is in synch with the lives of today's voters.

4 Improved Polling Place Management – Last November,

many South Carolina voters experienced long lines and poorly staffed and equipped polling places. We believe that our hard-working election officials and volunteers should be getting the training and other resources they need to make all our elections run smoothly.

I invite you to enjoy a Huffington Post blog by LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara that discusses four "pro-voter" reform issues the League will be focusing on in 2013 (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elisabeth-macnamara/path-free-fair-accessible_b_2278842.html).

Supported by generous support by the LWV Education Fund's Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project, we helped thousands register to vote in 2012. Special targets for our initiative were young

adults and minorities who are historically underrepresented in the voting rolls. Data from the State Election Commission are evidence of our success. Between January 2012 and the November 2012 election, statewide voter registration increased by:

- 19% for 18-24-year-olds;
- 15% for Hispanics;
- 8% for African-Americans;
- 5% overall.

Visit our website to see the reports and variation by county (<http://lwvsc.org/votesc.html>). Thanks to Terri Eisman for her analysis of SEC data.

In 2013 the League will continue our march down a well-trodden path to free, fair and accessible elections for all eligible South Carolinians. We just launched an activity to ensure that South Carolina is complying with National Voter Registration Act requirement to offer clients at public assistance and disability service offices a chance to register to vote. Another focus will be on informing ex-offenders about their voting rights and helping them register. Later in this issue Paula Egelson explains our endeavors. Also in this issue Eleanor Hare and Duncan Buell report on the LWVSC's work to ensure the accessibility and accuracy of the state's voting system.

Many thanks to all who help us fulfill the League's citizen education and voters service mission.

In addition to the potential for enacting pro-voter reforms, 2013 presents opportunities for South Carolina to move forward and address the needs of its citizens in areas such as strengthening the state's weak ethics and campaign finance laws, addressing the inequities in how our public schools are funded, and increasing healthcare access. In this issue you can read about the League's leadership in these areas and more.

As evidenced in the pages that follow, we are building on our 2012 achievements and moving forward to a banner 2013!

Best wishes for a wonderful new year,

Barbara

Around South Carolina . . .

WITH *The* LEAGUE

COLUMBIA AREA LEAGUE'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

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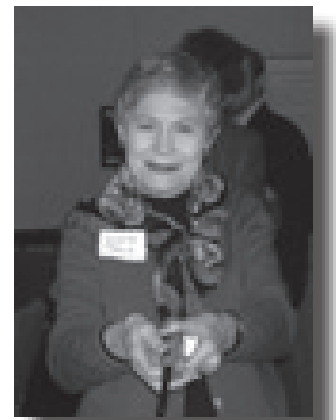
Joanne Williams, former Columbia Area LWV Administrator reads former President Laurel Suggs' remembrances.



Former Columbia Area LWV presidents Suzanne Rhodes, Lilla Hoefer, Judy Thompson and Cynthia Flynn.



Ted Wachter and Candy Waites, Former Columbia Area LWV president and Mistress of Ceremonies for the celebration.



Lucille Mould, long time Columbia Area League member and Administrative Assistant.



Shirley Geiger and Francena Willingham, Columbia Area LWV members.



Judy Thompson and Ellen Cooper, former Columbia Area LWV Presidents.

LOCAL LEAGUES: *continued on page 4 -*



LOCAL LEAGUES:

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Columbia Area

A grand time was had by members and supporters of the Columbia Area League of Women Voters who gathered December 6, 2012 to celebrate its 65th year. Former Columbia Area LWV president and the evening's emcee Candy Waites (whose mother Dot Yaghjian was president in 1950 – 53) led the way with remembrances of her League experience. Memories of the following presidents were shared by themselves or others:

- 1958 – 1961** Sarah Leverette
1963 – 1965 Keller Bumgardner Barron
1967 – 1968 Carol Bernstein
(Shared by her daughter Rep. Beth Bernstein)
1969 – 1973 Ellen Cooper
1973 – 1976 Candy Waites
1976 – 1979 Judy Thompson
1983 – 1987 Betsy Oakman
1987 – 1992 Laurel Suggs
(Out of town but remembrances read by Joanne Williams)
1997 – 1999 Jo Conner
1999 – 2005 Cynthia Flynn
2005 – 2007 Lilla Hoefer
2007 – 2009 Pam Craig & Suzanne Rhodes
2009 – 2011 Pam Craig
2011 - Rita Paul

Former Columbia Area President Keller Barron led a “Search and Gather” brigade of former Columbia Area LWV leaders to find any LWV archives that may have been lurking in leaders’ closets or basements. Found LWV archives and computer records were presented to Herb Hartsook, director of South Carolina Political Collections at the University of South Carolina Library. The Library has preserved the League’s archives for many years beginning with the first South Carolina League of Women Voters in 1919.

Betsy Oakman edited a special commemorative booklet for the event which includes historical information and recollections from League presidents. Sej

Harman designed the booklet given at the event. Lucille Mould was the Event coordinator. The evening was helped made possible by special anniversary gifts from Carole Cato, Susan James, Sarah Leverette and Lucille Mould.

The shared sentiment of all the leaders was best stated by Betsy Oakman. “My personal debt to the League can be expressed in terms of a growing understanding of my community and government on all levels and the opportunity to associate with intelligent and assertive women who are genuinely concerned about the world in which they live.”

Clemson Area

LWV of the Clemson Area presented the following comments to the Pickens County Legislative Delegation on January 3:

The Clemson League has been serving this area for 45 years in helping citizens to be informed and participate actively in the democratic process through public meetings, voter registration, candidate forums and study and action on local, state and national issues. We are here today to address positions adopted by Leagues around the state on two legislative issues: education funding and home rule.

We are disturbed by the decline in the level of state funding for public education and by the shift in the distribution of state funds that resulted from a combination of Act 388 and underfunding EFA. Together the result was a shift of state aid to wealthier districts with more high-valued homes and away from poorer districts with fewer high valued homes and more dependence on EFA funding. We urge you to fully fund EFA and to reconsider some of the provisions of Act 388, particularly the guarantee of \$2.5 million per county, which only helped a few districts. State aid funds school districts and pupils, not counties, which are not education providers. We urge you to convert that provision to a per district, per pupil guarantee that will help smaller districts in multi-district counties, including District 3 in Anderson. Anderson 3, which includes Starr and Iva, received only \$301 per

pupil from Act 388 in 2010, compared to a state average of \$911. Citizens in poorer districts like Anderson 3 pay sales taxes to support property tax relief under Act 388, but some of them receive little benefit. We are also concerned about proposed legislation changing the way education is funded. While we encourage further consideration of requiring each district to levy at least 100 mills for school operations as their local match for EFA, we do not want to see it converted to a state property tax, further diluting local control and ownership of the public schools.

Home rule has been an issue of concern to the League ever since the mid1970s, when some degree of autonomy was granted to counties. Important dimensions of home rule were not addressed at that time or since. School boards are elected bodies, and the citizens in those school districts who elect those board members should have some say in the composition of the school board. There is one county in South Carolina with three school districts in which the legislative delegation (with only one member resident in that county) appoints the county board and the county board appoints the district boards. This situation may be extreme, but there have been problems in other counties as well. This is not an issue of fiscal autonomy, because we recognize that the state has a substantial role in funding public education and perhaps needs to have a strong voice in that area. It is an issue of democratic process that has played out in different ways across the state in Sumter, in Hampton, in Dillon, in Fairfield, and other places. The other dimension of home rule is appointments on recommendation by the legislative delegation. We are particularly concerned about state level appointments made on the basis of judicial circuits, because the judicial circuits are very unequal in size. We also would like to see the legislative delegation cede any remaining county-level appointment powers to the elected county councils.

Thank you for inviting citizen input, and for all the work you do on behalf of the citizens of Pickens County and of the state of South Carolina.

LOCAL LEAGUES: *continued on page 5 -*

LOCAL LEAGUES:

continued from page 4 –

Spartanburg Area

Interview With U.S. Congressman Trey Gowdy

– January 9, 2013

By Linda Bilanchone, President,
LWV/Spartanburg County

Fifteen members of the Spartanburg League met with Congressman Gowdy who represents the 4th District to discuss the upcoming Congressional session. Rep. Gowdy answered our questions in a forthcoming and direct way on the following topics:

ENVIRONMENT: Rep. Gowdy suggested that we need to convince citizens that the climate change science is reliable; that our current global warming is not cyclical; that human beings have caused this environmental change and that human beings can correct it. He noted that conservation is inherently conservative and we ought to be able to draw conservative support to this cause.

HEALTH CARE: Rep. Gowdy remarked that everyone should have health insurance or should take advantage of someone else providing it for them. He says that he would rather pay for and provide for indigent care – purchase it for them, use tax credits, stipends, etc. – than to create a 4th entitlement (1 Medicaid,

2 Medicare, 3 Social Security, 4 ____). Why? Because a person's decision NOT to be insured impacts each of us. We pay for that person's care when he or she goes to the hospital. He noted, in this regard, that Australia has an interesting model. For him, it's a question of good public policy vs. mandates.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE: As a former prosecutor, Rep. Gowdy noted that the First Amendment protects a lot that most of us find repulsive (child pornography, violent video games). And, the Supreme Court has said that corporations will be protected as persons under the First Amendment. So, as far as corporation in American elections go, the answer is DISCLOSURE. Let the public know who is paying for the messages. Sunlight is the answer. Candidates disclose donors; why shouldn't PACs disclose donors?

ETHICS: Rep. Gowdy serves on one of the House Ethics committees and considers it a high honor. What he says is needed are safeguards so that an opponent cannot file a bogus complaint six weeks before an election that then affects the election because the news is that "an ethics complaint has been filed against candidate X."

ECONOMY: Elected officials are given too much credit or blame for what they can do to affect the economy, according to Rep. Gowdy. The truth is that elected

officials can't do much about the economy. What they CAN do in regard to the economy is through 1) the regulatory apparatus; 2) the tax apparatus; 3) litigation. Rep. Gowdy calls himself a fair trader, not necessarily a free trader.

NATIONAL SECURITY: National defense is the pre-eminent responsibility of the federal government. As a percent of GDP, defense spending is lower than it has been in decades. However, Rep. Gowdy says, we need to better articulate what American interests are abroad. **EDUCATION:** The pre-eminent responsibility of the state is education (and public safety). Education is certainly the best pathway out of poverty (along with hard work) and to be taken very seriously. However, student loan defaults are at an all-time high. Perhaps low interest rates have not served us well, and, perhaps, as loans have been more available with low interest rates, tuition has risen higher. We need to deal with tuition. And, more money doesn't necessarily lead to better, more effective education.

Final note: Rep. Gowdy remarked that redistricting has not served us well. He noted that as far as the 4th Congressional District goes, there is almost no chance of anyone other than a Republican being elected. This situation is no way to strengthen democracy and to get good people involved in politics. We agreed.

HELP NEEDED:

Are you a League member with a passion for Natural Resources/Conservation or Transportation issues? There are openings on the LWVSC Board for directors in these areas. To learn more, please contact JoAnne Day at 803-731-5282 or jvday@yahoo.com.



Conservation's Legislative Common Agenda Priorities for 2013

By Chester Sansbury, LWVSC Common Agenda Coordinator

Once again over 50 energized and determined environmental conservation organization staff and grass roots members came together at the USC Green Quad October 5th to discuss legislative priorities and strategies for 2013. There were excellent presentations by team leaders on water, energy, land conservation, and waste recycling topics. The League is a partner in this *Common Agenda* effort which helps focus the state's environmental community on common concerns. League members Chester Sansbury of Columbia and Christe McCoy of Holly Hill participated this year. Ranking of issues was accomplished using a "place your colored dots system" indicating which issues were the most important out of nine discussed. The top two issues claiming the highest dot count were clean energy and water security/efficiency followed by protection of Carolina bays and wetlands.

The need to reform legal barriers to the installation of solar energy systems is a very challenging issue. Solar energy

development is booming but not in SC which is one of the few states that make use of solar power economically and legally difficult. A recent ruling granted to favor the large utilities such as SCE&G, requires competing solar power installers to qualify as utilities like SCE&G. The issue cries out for legislative relief. If citizens want more diversity in how electrical power is produced and distributed in our state, then speaking out to their elected representatives for change is absolutely necessary.

There is also strong grassroots support for legislation to set goals and foster practices to manage the water resources of our state in a more efficient and productive manner. This is very important as water demands increase in the face of more frequent droughts. Additionally, the LWVSC water resources report published in 2011 listed nine cost effective polices that could be embraced by the state and local governments and utilities to invest in water efficiency. Both Georgia and NC are far ahead of SC in such efforts.

Other issues of importance that were discussed were funding of environmental conservation programs and campaign ethics and finance reform. The League has already taken a lead on campaign and ethics reform this year.

Conservation Voters of SC (CVSC) has arranged briefings on the common agenda priorities for both the SC Senate and House in January. Senator John Courson will host a briefing on **Wednesday, Jan. 9th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Gressette Building, Room 105; a briefing for House members will be held on **Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 8:30 a.m.** in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. Lobby days at the Statehouse on these issues will be hosted by the various environmental conservation organizations from January-May with help from the CVSC's seasoned veteran, Debbie Parker. **LWV's environmental lobby day is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 26.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Chester Sansbury at CSANSBURY1@sc.rr.com or 803-750-6901.

SAVE THE DATE: March 23, 2013

MARCHING FOR THE VOTE:

Remembering The Woman Suffrage Parade of 1913

Join Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Columbia Chapter and the League of Women Voters for a reenactment of the March 1913 Woman Suffrage Parade that took place in Washington, DC. This was the first suffrage march where Black women marched, not at the end of the parade, but in the midst of the parade. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, who lived in Chicago, organized the first Black suffrage club for Black women and refused to march at

the end of the 1913 parade. This was a momentous occasion for a movement that began in 1848, 17 years before the end of slavery.

Women's groups from across the state will march from Columbia's Finlay Park to the Statehouse on **March 23**. The march begins at 10 am and will be followed by a luncheon at Seawell's Restaurant. As SC women and men, let's show our strength and dedication to the rights of women.



Please contact Rita Paul, LWV/Columbia Area President, for details (ritagpaul@hotmail.com; 803-606-0277). Information will also be posted at www.lwvsc.org.

To read about the 1913 event that marked a milestone for women's rights, visit <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/aw01e/aw01e.html> and <http://www.nwhm.org/online-exhibits/rightsforwomen/AfricanAmericanwomen.html>.



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Website: www.lwvsc.org

Join the League today!

A Full and Frank Exchange of Views

By Eleanor Hare, PhD, LWVSC Director, Election Technology

At the invitation of Elections Systems and Software (ES&S), League members Duncan Buell, Barbara Zia, Lynn Teague and Eleanor Hare met with ES&S representatives in Columbia on December 12, 2012. Mr. Ken Carbullido (Senior VP, Systems), Ms. Kathy Rogers and Mr. Sean Brockhouse demonstrated a beta version of their next generation voting machine.

Dr. Buell had recently concluded an analysis of the voting problems in Richland County, and deficiencies in the logging of supervision actions by the iVotronic system were discussed. Event log and audit trail messages should be clear, meaningful and relate to specific unambiguous events. Mr. Carbullido suggested that these deficiencies existed in the iVotronic system when it was purchased by ES&S from the developer. The life expectancy of South Carolina's current voting machines was discussed, but no conclusions were reached as to when the iVotronic system would need to be replaced.

The demonstrated voting machine prints a ballot on one-sided heat-sensitive paper that the voter inserts face up into a slot in the machine. The printing on the ballot consists of both barcodes and text printout of the voter's selections. The voter is able to verify that the text is correct, but would have no way of confirming that the barcode is correct. Since the scanner reads the barcode, but not the text, the voter may lack confidence that the vote is being correctly recorded.

League representatives stressed the need for transparency in the election process. We insisted that allowing the source code, including source code of scanners, to be examined would not compromise the copyright of the manufacturer.

Dr. Buell mentioned recent developments using less expensive and readily available "commodity" computers and printers, with software that is open for viewing. The printed paper is then the official ballot. Experts expect such a system to result in financial savings

because it uses considerably cheaper components. ES&S said they did not expect this approach to be available any time soon.

Some general concerns of the League group included:

1. A request that ES&S use a Common Data Format in future development,
2. A discussion of the recently-disclosed "patch" that ES&S applied to machines that count the votes in Ohio immediately before the November 2012 election, and
3. The failure of ES&S to adequately communicate to voting personnel in SC that post-election audits of the electronic data were possible.

We closed this full and frank exchange of views with a mutual agreement to work for increased transparency, reliability and auditability of elections.

League Marks Sunshine Week 2013

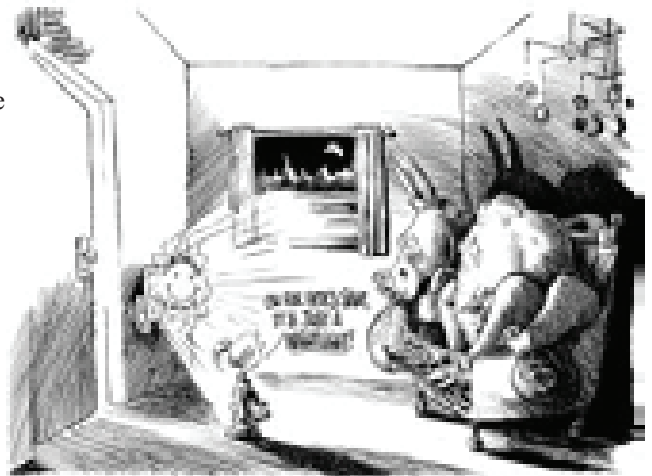
March 10–16 is Sunshine Week, a nationwide effort to call attention to transparency in government and freedom of information. It is observed annually close to President James Madison's birthday, March 16. The League of Women Voters and other members of the Sunshine Week coalition encourage citizens to play an active role in promoting open government at all levels.

While government transparency is its real objective, there is also a great need for transparency and disclosure of secret money in elections. Voters want to know just who is pouring millions of dollars in secret contributions into our elections.

Polls show the public overwhelmingly supports transparency for candidate campaigns and outside spending groups. A cardinal rule of campaign finance laws is that citizens are entitled to know the identity of and amounts given by the donors who are funding campaign expenditures to influence their votes.

For decades, members of the League of Women Voters have acted as government watchdogs at the federal, state and local levels. We monitor state, county, municipal and school budgets, watch government meetings, and hold officials accountable. We are working to strengthen South Carolina's Freedom of Information laws so that public agencies and officials provide information to citizens in a timely, affordable fashion. And we are advocating for reform of the state's finance campaign laws, calling for disclosure of sources of all campaign funds, including those channeled through political action committees.

We believe that safeguarding citizens' right to know is critical to the health of our democracy. *Keep the sun shining!*



Are you a *Ray of Sunshine*? Take the Sunshine Week quiz on line and find out: <http://www.sunshineweek.org/>.

The Public Official's Guide to Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, SC Press Association's SC FOIA booklet, is available for free download at <http://www.scpres.org/foia.html>.

Accept **ME SC** Medicaid Expansion

Support Affordable Health Care for 329,000 Uninsured South Carolinians

South Carolinians need the security of affordable health care. Affordable health care means we can keep ourselves and our families healthy, keep our jobs, sustain the self-employed and start new businesses. Affordable health care ensures that our kids can thrive and be successful. Expanding Medicaid will help older Americans who've lost their jobs or are struggling in jobs without health benefits.

Implementing new health care solutions is the best choice for South Carolina, our citizens, our economy, and our future. We will be making a smart investment in our state's economy and workforce. Our state's health system will be stronger and more cost-effective, and hard-working South Carolina residents will be healthier.



Medicaid provides many South Carolinians – children, seniors living at home and in nursing homes, and people with disabilities – indispensable health and long term care. Now we can build on these successes and make coverage affordable for more working adults and families.

Many of our state's hospitals and other healthcare providers rely on Medicaid dollars to provide essential services and equipment.

More than 329,000 people in our state earn less than \$15,000 a year and do not have health insurance. People with access to health care are healthier and more productive. We, the undersigned, urge our South Carolina lawmakers to make sure our friends and neighbors are able to access affordable and appropriate healthcare through our Medicaid program.

- AARP South Carolina
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American Heart Association
- American Stroke Association
- Columbia Urban League, Inc.
- Disability Action Center, Inc.
- disAbility Resource Center
- Federation of Families of South Carolina
- League of Women Voters of South Carolina
- March of Dimes
- Mental Health America – South Carolina
- Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Carolinas Chapter
- NAACP
- National Alliance on Mental Illness South Carolina
- Palmetto Project
- Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.
- South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
- South Carolina Primary Health Care Association
- SC Christian Action Council
- South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce
- South Carolina Cancer Alliance
- South Carolina HIV/AIDS Care Crisis Task Force
- United Way Association of South Carolina
- United Way of the Midlands, Health Council



How Will South Carolina Address Changes in Health Care?

By Marty Hucks, LWVSC Director, Healthcare

On December 8, 2012 LWVSC joined 23 other organizations in signing on in support of the efforts of the *Accept ME (Medicaid Expansion) SC Coalition* to advocate for South Carolina's participation in Medicaid expansion. In what promises to be among the most heated debates of the upcoming legislative session, the General Assembly will consider whether to implement the option of increasing the rolls of those on the state's Medicaid program to cover those living at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (an annual income of \$31,809 for a family of four) with support from the federal government. The extension is optional based on the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on the Affordable Care Act.

Created by the Social Security Amendments of 1965 to meet health care needs of the poor and disabled, Medicaid is jointly funded by the states and federal government. SC Medicaid currently offers certain health services to South Carolinians in specific eligibility categories with varying income requirements. According to Tony Keck, Director of South Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services, 22.4% of South Carolinians currently receive some Medicaid services, and 70% of those in a nursing home receive Medicaid.

Accept ME SC Coalition's primary message, that our state's citizens need access to affordable health care, is in keeping with the health care position statement of LWVUS issued in 1993. It reads "that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all US residents." In terms of financing health care, "The League supports administration of the US health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies" (<http://www.lwv.org/context/health-care>). Since the early 1990s, the League has actively engaged in educating communities about this issue through such programs such as the "Understanding Health Care

Policy Project," has lobbied for change, and has provided expert testimonial to Congressional committees.

According to the coalition, more than 329,000 South Carolinians earn less than \$15,000/year and have no health insurance. Medicaid expansion in South Carolina would mean the influx of \$3 billion in federal monies to add up to 513,000 citizens to the state's Medicaid program. The federal government would pay 100% of the expenses for the first three years; over the following four years that percentage would decrease to 90%, and South Carolina would pay 10% of the costs from then on. According to the Kaiser Foundation, that would equate to a 0.3% increase over what South Carolina would pay for Medicaid anyway. The coalition plans to conduct town hall meetings throughout the state in the coming months to promote Medicaid expansion and to educate citizens regarding the issue. In addition to better health outcomes, the group believes health care jobs created by the influx of federal money would have a positive impact on the state's economy.

On November 28th, Mr. Keck presented information on the issue of Medicaid expansion to the Senate Medical Affairs Committee. He is opposed to extending Medicaid and stated that "how to cover more people" is the wrong question; instead he feels that the issue is "how to improve the health of the people." He has identified social determinants of health--such as transportation, level of education, jobs, and family structure--as accounting for a majority of health outcomes, with the delivery of care and structure of the system having a much smaller impact.

As a concerned citizen, we encourage you to reach out to your legislators now. Contact them, and let them know your thoughts regarding Medicaid expansion; like *Accept ME SC* on Facebook and learn more about the coalition; and stay educated about the issue.

A League STRATEGY

League representatives are pursuing advocacy through personal contacts and public testimony in the General Assembly. We hope we will have the backing of all of our members, who as constituents, have the ear of public officials. We are providing information about League positions here in SC VOTER, on our website, and in other communications to insure that everyone knows what we are working on, and why. We hope that you will talk to representatives as active and concerned citizens. Give them information, for example referring them to our ethics reforms recommendations and *Accept ME* statements. Most important of all, find out what they are thinking and saying, and please let us know. Barbara Zia as LWVSC Co-President, JoAnne Day as VP for Issues and Action, and Lynn Teague as Advocacy Director want to hear from you about what you hear from your representatives. This is immensely helpful in formulating advocacy strategy at the State House, and throughout the state.

Finally, when you receive an action alert from the League, we hope that you will act! Your contact with your representatives as concerned constituents is one of our greatest assets as an organization. We need your active participation in League advocacy to keep our issues before the people who make the decisions that affect our lives and those of our fellow citizens.



State League Advocacy In 2013

By Lynn Teague, LWVSC Advocacy Director

2013 promises to be a very big year for League advocacy at the state level. The League has always had a central focus on elections and voting and on integrity and transparency in government; these are front and center in South Carolina's legislative agenda in 2013. These are issues on which the League takes a leadership role and formulates independent positions and advocacy efforts. Other organizations often look to the League for guidance in these areas, and either partner with us or follow the League's efforts.

A few months ago the League won a major battle in insuring through the courts that photo ID requirements would not be a major impediment to South Carolina's voters. This session, there are efforts to provide South Carolina with no-excuse early voting, which the League strongly supports. However, we are reviewing some of the trade-offs that are built into present bills, including serious limitations on absentee voting. For example, under one bill absence because of employment demands would no longer qualify for absentee voting, and no-excuse early voting would be confined to in-person voting at one location in each county. It is not clear that a worker whose job called them out of state for several weeks would have any way to vote. We will be following these and other elections issues closely and actively.

Also, we have our best chance in years, and probably for years to come, to

reform South Carolina's ethics laws to insure integrity and transparency in our state and local governments. These are central to the League's mission, and fit with one of the League's most important national concerns, money in politics. The League has already provided testimony at four hearings on this issue, and we expect to continue to be very active. Our recommendations for ethics reform are available on-line at <http://www.lwvsc.org/files/ethicspackage20121203.pdf>.

The League is also closely monitoring discussions around voting technology and elections audits in South Carolina. League experts have testified before the Legislative Audit Committee on the technology issue, and expect to continue to have an active role in this debate.

The League has long supported home rule for South Carolina's county and local governments and school boards. Reform in this area has been very slow in coming, and the General Assembly continues to oversee and control many decisions that should be made at the local level. We will continue to pursue this issue. If overall government restructuring is again under consideration, we will follow that as well.

Beyond these areas central to good government and citizen participation in government, there are other important areas for League advocacy. In these additional areas, we often partner with other organizations that can bring additional specific expertise to the topics. The most prominent of these issues in

2013 is the debate around expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to cover the working poor. The League has joined with the Accept ME coalition, spearheaded by the AARP, to advocate for this issue.

We expect education at every level to be another important area for League advocacy in the 2013 session of the General Assembly. A "trial balloon" was floated last session, completely revising K-12 education funding in South Carolina to insure greater equity in funding for students, especially those most at risk. Understandably, the bill has wide-ranging implications for both tax and education policy. If a similar bill is introduced in this session, the League will want to be part of the dialogue. If the South Carolina Supreme Court rules on the long-standing case brought by inadequately funded districts, we can expect this issue to become more prominent.

We also expect to advocate strongly for public education, and against any efforts to introduce tax deductions or vouchers for private and home schooling. The League is also undertaking a study of teacher evaluations and may develop a consensus position, but there is no evidence that this issue will be before the General Assembly in this session.

In the area of environment, we do not foresee major changes at this time, but will closely follow environmental legislation in cooperation with our partners that specialize in this area.

Spirit of Democracy Award Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the 2013 Spirit of Democracy award that will be presented at Convention. This biennial award has been bestowed at Conventions since 2007. In 2011 we had three recipients: League leaders Mary Washington Deku from Spartanburg and Sarah Leverette from Columbia; and retired South Carolina Chief Justice Ernest A. Finney, Jr.

The Spirit of Democracy award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the active and informed participation of citizens in their government, and who demonstrate a commitment to democracy and democratic processes in South Carolina.

Award nominees may include non-League members. Any League member is welcome to submit a nomination. Please

include a brief explanation of why this person deserves the Spirit of Democracy award. The LWVSC Executive Committee will decide whom to honor, based on nominations received. Send your nominations to Barbara Zia (ziab1@comcast.net, email; or 2028 Azimuth Ct., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466, postal mail). Postmark deadline for nominations is March 5.



LWVSC BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Mark Your Calendars and Make Plans To Attend Now!

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday
April 27-28, 2013

WHERE: Hampton Inn & Suites,
Greenville-Spartanburg
108 Spartangreen Blvd,
Duncan, SC 29334



WHAT: Be part of grassroots democracy and help frame the League's future in South Carolina. There'll be excitement galore: setting issue and action priorities, receiving reports from League leaders and study committees, electing a new state board, membership growth awards for local Leagues, guest speakers, workshops, panel discussions.



WHO: LWVSC Members & Friends
(Only members can serve as voting delegates.)

*Join our Convention host, LWV of Spartanburg County, and League members from across the state for a fun, action-packed spring weekend in “**Revolutionary Spartanburg County.**”*

In February, details will be sent to local League presidents and members and posted at www.lwvsc.org.

To book rooms at Hampton Inn at special convention rate of \$92+tax:

*Call **864-486-8100** & ask for League of Women Voters,*

OR book online at www.spartangreensuites.hampton.com with the code “ZIA.”

Call For Coaches

By Janie Shipley, Vice President, Member Services

The Membership and Leadership Development program (MLD) continues its work to strengthen the League and our leaders in South Carolina. More coaches are needed so that more local Leagues

can participate and benefit from MLD's resources. Training will be provided so that coaches can hone their skills in listening, encouraging and teaching – all to help a South Carolina local League

increase membership and grow leaders. For further information about MLD and how you can fit in, contact Janie Shipley at 864-885-1967 or janrel@mindspring.com.

Help The LWVSC Nominating Committee

LWVSC STATE BOARD NOMINEE RECOMMENDATION FORM

I nominate the following person for a position on the LWVSC Board of Directors or the LWVSC Nominating Committee: *(self-nominations are welcome)* **Use additional paper or duplicate as needed.**

POSTMARK DEADLINE: February 15, 2013

Name _____	League _____	
Street Address _____	City/State _____	Zip _____
E-mail address _____	Home or cell phone _____	Business Phone _____

1. Please check (X) the qualities that this nominee possesses:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flexibility, openness to change | <input type="checkbox"/> Active participation in development activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding of board-staff interactions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strong people skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Effective communications (verbal, written) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> Interest in state and/or local League activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good time management | <input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to League's financial health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys challenges | <input type="checkbox"/> Experience in organizational budgeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visionary | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized skills (foreign languages, technology, etc. Please explain _____) | |

2. Additional comments supporting this nomination, including the unique cultural perspective (*geographic, age, gender, race, ethnicity*) and/or exceptional leadership skills this nominee could bring to the LWVSC Board of Directors or Nominating Committee:

3. Summary of nominee's League, non-League and/or professional background (Optional: attach a brief biography, if available):

Nominated by:

Name _____ League _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Signature _____

Return to: (Electronic submissions are encouraged.) Angie Edwards, 63 Battery White Ct., Unit 2005, Georgetown, SC 29440 or e-mail: rpeward@frontier.com, 843-520-0181



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Website: www.lwvsc.org

Join the League today!

What Happened on Election Day in Richland County?

By Duncan Buell, PhD, LWVSC Electronic Voting Specialist

I doubt that there is anyone who would argue that the election process went smoothly on November 6 in Richland County. In three-fourths of the precincts, the terminal count was less than in November 2010 General Election, and then apparently the number of terminals was made even smaller when terminals broke down. I can never remember standing in line more than 15-20 minutes when voting in Louisiana, Maryland, or Ohio, and I can never remember standing in line for less than 90 minutes in a biennial election since moving to Richland County in 2000. But even by those standards, the *process* of the election on Tuesday was a failure.

I have been working for eight years with the League of Women Voters of South Carolina to analyze the voting system used in the state and the data resulting from elections. Not only do my computer programs compare the certified counts against the cast vote record that supports (or does not support) the certified counts,

they also provide, among other things, information on the election process by providing votes per terminal, votes cast after closing time (that would indicate long lines), and a summary of exceptions and anomalous events logged by the terminals.

I have repeatedly offered my code and analysis to government and election officials at the state and county levels. Until late November, none have taken me up on my offer. But I have now been in contact with Steve Hamm, the attorney for the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration, and there is interest in having an analysis of the data that can be used to improve the process for the next election. I am more than willing, working through LWVSC, to offer my results from analyzing the 2012 data to indicate where the process could be improved and thus to prevent the long lines and waiting experienced on November 6. The analysis I did with the League on the 2010 data has been publicly available for nearly two years.

We have known for two years how many terminals were used in Richland County in November 2010, how many votes were cast per machine, and how many votes were cast after closing time on each terminal and in each precinct. Since getting this year's election data on November 21, I have been working to determine the "what" of what happened on Election Day: how many terminals, how many working terminals, the times of first vote and last vote per terminal, and so forth. I will also compare Richland against the other large counties in the state, when that other data becomes available.

Unless the problems with our at-best-obsolete machines stem from a very high hardware failure rate that leads to a fundamentally insufficient number of machines available, I believe the problems of Election Day can be avoided in the future by looking at the data from past elections. I would be happy to work with county officials to provide this analysis, and I hope my offers are accepted.

Focus on Marginalized Voters

By Paula Egelson, EdD, LWVSC Director, Voter Registration

The League of Women Voters Education Fund awarded funding to LWVSC to undertake several voter protection activities across the state. An early 2013 activity is having local Leagues administer a survey to state offices providing public assistance and disability services to determine if they are offering information about voter registration to all their applicants and clients. This offering of voter registration at public assistance and disability services offices is in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (Section 7). In 2009 and 2010 SC public assistance and disability offices registered very few individuals to vote. For example, the SC food stamp application did not include

questions about voter registration. In compliance with the National Voter Registration Act applicants must be asked if they want to register to vote during the food stamp application process.

The surveys will be administered in selected SC counties that represent urban, rural and suburban locales. Local League representatives will volunteer to administer surveys. In each selected county, two to four public assistance and disability offices will be surveyed during regular work hours. At each site two survey forms will be completed, one for the office and one for the clients. It will take a volunteer approximately four hours to complete the surveys at each site.

We are working with Project Vote on this initiative; it is a non-partisan D.C.-based voter rights group with lots of experience in monitoring compliance with the National Voter Registration Act. Sarah Brannon from Project Vote will offer the training to project volunteers.

There are grant funds for such things as transportation and materials available to local Leagues who are participating in this initiative.

If your League – or you as an individual--is interested in taking part in this project and/or if you have questions, please contact Paula Egelson paulaserv@aol.com or 843-696-5099.



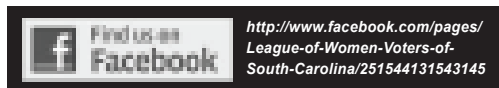
IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES:

January

- 16th** Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., *House Conservation Briefing*, Blatt Room 110, Statehouse grounds, Columbia.
- 26th** Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., *LWVSC Board Meeting*, at IMG office, 1600 St. Julian Place, Columbia.*

February

- 14th** Thursday, *93rd Anniversary of Founding of the League of Women Voters*.
- 26th** *LWVSC Conservation Lobby Day*, Statehouse, Columbia.



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

March

- 1st** *Deadline for Returning Consensus Report for LWVSC Education Study and Program Planning Responses.*
- 9th** Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., *LWVSC Board Meeting*, at IMG office, 1600 St. Julian Place, Columbia.*
- 10th-16th** *Sunshine Week*, a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.
- 23rd** Saturday, 10 a.m., *Marching for the Vote: Remembering the 1913 Woman Suffrage Parade*, Parade route from Finlay Park to Statehouse. Lunch at Seawell's follows.

April

27th-28th

Saturday & Sunday, *LWVSC Biennial Convention*, Hampton Inn, Greenville-Spartanburg, Duncan, SC. Hosted by LWV of Spartanburg County.

LWVSC STUDY — ON —

Evaluation & Retention of Effective Teachers

This 2-year study, adopted by delegates at the May 2011 LWVSC Convention, has reached the member consensus phase. We are deeply grateful to the study committee for its monumental work on an issue that is complex and controversial, as well as of vital importance for our state.

In developing the consensus materials the goal has been to present all sides of the issue with equal emphasis. Once the consensus reports have been received by LWVSC, the results will be evaluated as to whether agreement has been reached and a position statement will be drafted. The LWVSC Board will send members the proposed position as part of the

Proposed LWVSC Program materials for Convention. Delegates to the April 27-28 LWVSC Convention will consider whether to adopt the position as part of LWVSC Program (i.e., positions on public policy issues found in *LWVSC Agenda for Action*).

The consensus package with complete background information on the study topic is at <http://lwvsc.org/teacherretention.html>. Contact 803-251-2726 or league@lwvsc.org to request a paper copy of the consensus materials.

For background on the League's grassroots member study process, please see *Dimensions of a League Study* at <http://lwvsc.org/issuesandaction.html>. Remember:

If there are areas in a League study where no member agreement is reached, there can be no position in those areas.

League members are invited to consider and respond to the following consensus questions, either at local League consensus meetings or, if that isn't possible, individually. If participating in the consensus process at a League meeting, one group response form can be submitted, indicating the number of members who took part.

Questions? Please contact study co-chairs Jon Butzon at cen@charlestonednet.com or Peggy Huchet at mhuchet@comcast.net.

CONSENSUS FORM:

on page 15 -



LWVSC Study on Evaluation and Retention of Effective Teachers

- CONSENSUS QUESTIONS -

Please respond to these questions and return to Peggy Huchet. You may email to mhuchet@comcast.net or postal mail to 988 Portabella Lane, Charleston, SC 29412.

Postmark deadline is **March 1, 2013**. Thank you very much for participating in this member consensus!

Person(s) responding: _____

Respondent's Local League (if any): _____

1. There is solid evidence and widespread agreement by the education community that:
 - a. An effective teacher is the most important school-based determinant of academic achievement.
 - b. An effective teacher is critical to provision of a high-quality education.
 - c. School districts should ensure that there are effective teachers for all students. Agree Disagree
2. In an effort to identify and retain effective teachers, many states are adopting comprehensive evaluation policies that evaluate teachers at least in part according to student achievement. Should student achievement be a factor in rating teacher effectiveness?
 Yes No
3. If the answer to question #2 is "no", what action should be taken to assure that every child has an effective teacher?
Please explain: _____

4. If the answer to question #2 is "yes", should **all** teachers be evaluated?
 Yes No
5. It has been documented that many school districts fail to recognize and respond to the variations in the effectiveness of teachers due in part to rating systems that have two categories: satisfactory and unsatisfactory.
 - a. Should an evaluation system be able to distinguish between superior, average and ineffective teachers?
 Yes No
 - b. If "yes", should the rating scale contain three or more categories, e.g., highly effective, effective, needs improvement, ineffective?
 Yes No
6. Which of the following are appropriate uses for teacher evaluations: (*Check all that apply*)
 - Provide feedback to assist teachers in developing their skills?
 - Inform decisions about retention and dismissal?
 - Make teacher assignments, e.g. lead teacher, department chair?
 - Inform decisions about compensation?
 - Other _____
7. What are the essential elements of a fair evaluation system? (*Check all that apply.*)
 - Clear, widely accepted standards
 - Trained evaluators
 - Consistency among evaluators
 - Other _____
8. Should teachers participate in developing and implementing the evaluation system?
 Yes No
9. Should South Carolina modify its existing teacher evaluation system to incorporate:
 - a. More definitive measures of student academic achievement to evaluate teacher performance?
 Yes No
 - b. A rating scale of three or more categories?
 Yes No
10. Who should be responsible for the cost of evaluation: (*Check one*)
 - State
 - Local School District
 - Combination
 - Other _____



LWV SC Voter

Post Office Box 8453
Columbia, SC 29202

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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*Pam Craig, Columbia Area LWV
former president offering her toast.*

COLUMBIA AREA LEAGUE

Celebrates

65

Years of Service



*Pat Mohr, Columbia Area LWV member, Keller Barron, former Columbia Area
LWV president and Marcia Synnott, Columbia Area LWV member.*