



# SC Voter

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

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Summer 2015

## League of Women Voters of South Carolina Applauds the Confederate Flag Removal

*June 23, 2015 Media Release Affirms Removal Support*

**Columbia, SC** – The League of Women Voters of South Carolina extends our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the Charleston shooting. We must honor the grace and dignity of those families by removing a symbol of division and pain in our state. We need to find this common ground and reconciliation to move our state forward.

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina supports Governor Nicki Haley’s call to remove the Confederate flag from the South Carolina capitol grounds. We appreciate the voices of many of our state leaders and of the citizens of South Carolina in echoing the call to remove the flag and help our state move forward in the spirit of healing and social justice. The League took an active role in opposing the flying of the Confederate flag above our capitol in the year 2000 and we now support it’s complete removal from the grounds of our state government. We call on our representatives in the General Assembly to take the next step.



*The people spoke and the flag came down.*

## LWVSC Leaders for 2015-2017

## Begin Their Service

*(Newly serving Officers and Directors are in italics below. Bios of the new board members will be in this VOTER and the next VOTER. The other officers and board members listed below have previously served.)*

### Officers:

**Co - Presidents** – *JoAnne Day, LWV Columbia Area and Julie Hussey, LWV Charleston Area*

**Vice President, Issues and Action** – *Lynn Teague, LWV Columbia Area*

**Vice President, Community Relations** – *Dee Woodward, LWV Sumter County (see bio)*

**Vice President, Member Services** – *Sue Yearwood, LWV HHI/Bluffton Area*

**Vice President, Voters Service** – *Sue Feutz, LWV HHI/Bluffton Area*

**LWVSC Leaders for 2015-2017:**  
*continued on page 4 –*

### Highlights:

- *Confederate Flag Comes Down* ..... 1
- *LWVSC Leaders 2015-2017* ..... 1
- *Co-Presidents' Message*..... 2
- *Superintendent of Education*..... 2
- *Convention Photos* ..... 3 & 4
- *Healthcare in SC*..... 5
- *American Experience* ..... 5
- *LWVSC Nominations*.....5
- *League Leader's Archives* ..... 6
- *SC Legislative Session* ..... 7 & 8
- *League Support* ..... 9
- *LWVSC (PAVP)* ..... 9
- *SC Voting System Fair* ..... 10
- *Clean Air & Energy* ..... 11 & 12

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

**Join the League today!**



## Co-Presidents' Perspectives:

"A picture is worth a thousand words", and so you will get a much better idea of our 2015 state convention in the photos in this Voter. But there is no getting around the fact that the Hilton Head League knows how to throw a party. As our host League they pulled out all the stops (including a theme and a logo) to make this a very special and memorable convention. A special thanks to **Pamela Hollinger, chair of the convention committee**, and **Loretta Warden, President of the Hilton Head League**, for making this event so special.

We had an amazing line up of speakers, beginning with **Molly Spearman, our new Superintendent of Education**, who shared with us some of her plans and hopes for education in South Carolina. I think all in the room found her to be compelling and impressive and we have high hopes for improvements in state education under her leadership. We were treated to a bit of history on the impact of Gullah culture and the civil war on Hilton Head Island with speakers **Emory Campbell and David Lauderdale**. **Linda Wassenich, our LWVUS liaison**, also gave us some insight on the wonderful history of league leadership and the role of our league founder Carrie Chapman Catt.

Our Saturday banquet was very special in that we presented the **Spirit of Democracy Award to two very dedicated attorneys who worked on the Abbeville case: Laura Callaway Hart and Carl Epps III**. **Laura and Carl**

(along with the late **Stephen Morrison**, who received this award in 2009) brought passion and rare dedication to seeing justice done for our poorest and most isolated school districts. This year's awardees are true examples of citizens dedicated to the principles and promises of our democracy. Sunday brought yet another outstanding talk by **Dr. Vernon Burton** on Lincoln and the Climate for Democracy. Dr. Burton also gave expert testimony in the SC photo id lawsuit in 2012 which the League took part.

And in between speakers, there was harmonious lunchtime entertainment by the Hilton Head Island Shore Notes, and we had a tempting array of vendors and of course the beach. We also spent some time on League business. We approved a new budget, elected new officers, updated some program items, and adopted a new healthcare study. There is more information on these items inside this issue. As with all of our conventions, it was a packed agenda and a busy, fun time.

This is also the time of the year that the League looks back and also looks forward. We have had our annual meetings and convention and we regretfully say goodbye to some of our departing leaders and welcome new board members and officers. Those leaders who are stepping down deserve our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for their willingness to give of their time, treasure and talent. We are excited to welcome those members who have stepped into leadership roles this



**JoAnne Day**  
*Co-President, LWVSC*

next biennium. We thank them for taking on the challenge and know they will find great satisfaction in their work for their communities through the League.

I'm looking forward to serving with my new co-president, **Julie Hussey**. A personal thanks to **Susan Richards**, who has been an outstanding partner for the past two years as co-president. Susan has been a long time leader in the League, having served as the President of the Charleston Area League and also served for many years on the board of LWVSC. Dedicated leaders like Susan make the League the enduring and powerful organization that we are.

## LWVSC New Position on Selection Process for State Superintendent of Education

*By Jane Pulling, LWVSC Director, Education*

Delegates to the State Convention of the LWVSC voted to change the League's position on selecting the State Superintendent of Education from appointment by the State Board of Education to election by the general voting population.

The rationale for this change was expressed by Shelia Gallagher, Education Co-director, who made the motion

and said that with the current political situation in South Carolina, all branches of government in the hands of one party; public election of the Superintendent would provide checks and balances so that important educational decisions and policies would not be held captive to political agendas.

Molly Spearman, current State Superintendent of Education, addressed

the issue in her question and answer session with the convention after her formal presentation. She said that she could see pros and cons for both methods of selection, appointment and election. She also said she knew several well qualified persons who would not consider undertaking the strenuous effort needed to run a political campaign.

*LWVSC - Climate for Democracy*  
**2015 LWVSC CONVENTION**

*April 25-26*

**"A DESTINATION CONVENTION"**



*JoAnne Day, 2015-2017  
 Co-President; Linda Wassenich,  
 LWVUS Liaison; Susan Richards-  
 Retiring 2013-2015 Co-President*



*David Ball*



*Keller Barron, Loretta  
 Warden, Dee Woodward and  
 Janie Shipley.*



*Joyce Franklin, Sue Yearwood, Barbara Brown, Janie Shipley and Linda Wassenich.*



*Molly Spearman*







Julie Hussey

## Convention Photos

continued from page 3 -



Pamela Redmon, Rosalyn Glenn, Dorothy Law and Patricia Montgomery.



Holley Ulbrich, Molley Spearman and Sarah Leverette

## LWVSC Leaders for 2015-2017

continued from page 1 -

**Treasurer** – Jeanette Roveri,  
LWV Sumter County

**Secretary** – Aggie Edwards, LWV  
Georgetown County

## Directors:

- David Ball, LWV Charleston Area
- Sheila Gallagher, LWV Florence Area
- Eleanor Hare, LWV Clemson Area
- Sarah Leverette, LWV Columbia Area
- Christe McCoy-Lawrence,  
LWV Charleston Area (see bio)
- Jane Pulling, LWV Charleston Area
- Holley Ulbrich, LWV Clemson Area

We are very grateful for the wonderful service of our retiring officers and board members: **Paula Egelson, Keller Barron, Dianne Haselton, Shirene Hansotia and Elizabeth Weems.**

## New Board Member Bios

(more to come in the next VOTER)

**Christe McCoy-Lawrence** is the LWVSC Director for Natural Resources. She has been a member of the Charleston Area League since 2010 and, previously, League of Lawrence Township, NJ and served on the boards of both Leagues. She is a member of the Conservation Voters of South Carolina, SC Coastal Conservation League, Sierra Club, and other environmental organizations. Previously she was active for many years on the board of HomeFront NJ, a nonprofit organization providing services and housing for homeless families, and as a chorus member for Boheme Opera NJ. Christe has worked as college English teacher, college administrator, editor, information architect for NJ state website. Now retired. Parent of two married sons.



**Delois (Dee) Woodward**, is the LWVSC Vice-President of Community Relations. She has been a Sumter County League member serving as Vice-President and now as President. Dee is retired from the Air Force and is working at the collegiate level. She is very active in her community and church. Her pastimes include being active in Toastmasters, American Red Cross, The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), the American Heart Association, and the NAACP. In addition, she mentors youth and adults on how to prepare for the workforce. She is married and has one son.

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# Healthcare in the Palmetto State: *A New Study*

By David Ball, LWVSC Director, Healthcare

In April 2015 delegates at the LWV in Hilton Head voted to authorize a **Study of healthcare in South Carolina**. A caucus at the Convention showed there is considerable interest in the topic. We have volunteers from Leagues in Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Darlington, Hilton Head, and Sumter.

After the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed in 2009, talk of

further healthcare reform receded. Six years later interest is back. While the US Supreme Court found the ACA to be constitutional, it did permit states to choose whether to set up their own insurance exchanges and whether to expand the Medicaid federal/state partnership. South Carolina was one of the states that declined to expand health insurance for the poor, leaving

large numbers of low-income South Carolinians without coverage.

As we begin to define the parameters of the study, the state League will be holding a series of **Healthcare Conversations**. The first will be held in Charleston on July 14th. One is also planned in Hilton Head/Bluffton Sept 23rd. To schedule one for your League, contact me at [davidsball47@gmail.com](mailto:davidsball47@gmail.com).

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## An American Experience

By Jan Welch, LWV Greenville County

Friday, January 23, 2015 was a red-letter day for 28 new Americans, and it was a time of patriotic renewal for Greenville League members Frances Carwile, Marian Hayes and me. Marian had been in contact with US Immigration Services for months ever since the Greenville League Board learned that new citizens are sworn in every Friday in the Greer Offices of Immigration and Homeland Security. When contact was finally made with the director, we were graciously invited to attend the ceremonies and bring our Voter Registration Forms so that new citizens could become voters as soon as possible.

That very rainy, chilly day, Frances, Marian and I met at the Greer office, made our way through tight security, just like the airport, and entered a friendly meeting room. We waited while the citizens-to-be

were briefed in another room. Along with family and friends of the soon-to-be-citizens we exchanged friendly smiles and greetings. We felt very welcome by the Immigration Officers and were asked to display our Voter Registration Forms and information materials right up front.

Leaders of the ceremony began with warm and relaxing remarks mentioning all of the countries from which the new citizens came: Mexico, India, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Chile, Columbia Dominican Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Kenya, Latvia, Philippines, South Africa, Syria and the Ukraine. We guessed that the new citizens ranged in age from late teens/early twenties to middle age and one older woman. Each one was called to the front and handed their papers. All took the Oath of Allegiance with right arm raised and small American flag in hand.

One official expressed disappointment in not being able to have President Obama in attendance, but the next best thing was a video of him greeting the new citizens with genuine remarks. We all stood to pledge the flag and sing The Star-Spangled Banner. Listening to all voices raised in respect and love of country made tears come to our eyes, the back of our necks tingle, and goose bumps appear on our arms. As the ceremony ended there were hugs and smiles all around as many came to our table to sign the Voter Registration form and chat about procedures for voting.

What a day! Despite the clouds and rain, there was bright sunshine in the hearts of all who were gathered in Greer, South Carolina. We encourage you all to join in the same experience at the Offices of Immigration and Homeland Security in your part of the state.

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## LWVUS Nomination Timeline Announced

Look for the Nominating Committee's Application/Recommendation form on [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), and recommend nominees for the 2016-18 LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee. You may recommend yourself or another League member. Deadline for submitting forms is September 30, 2015. Additional information, references and a resume are due by November 15. The Nominating

Committee will submit its slate to the LWVUS Board in February 2016. Elections will be held at the June 2016 Convention in Washington, DC. Be sure to make contact to seek approval from the potential nominee before you send in a name.

The current Nominating Committee seeks a Board and Nominating Committee makeup that reflects the voices of the diverse populations within League. You can

assist us in reaching this goal. Please talk to potential nominees, get their permission to recommend them as nominees, and complete the form on the website.

The Nominating Committee theme is: "Embracing the future: leading the way." We are looking for members who will not only embrace the future, but will be the ones to lead us there. You are an important link in making that happen.

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# Help Preserve the League and League Leaders' Archives

By Herbert J. Hartsook, Director, South Carolina Political Collections  
Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, The University of South Carolina

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina archives are preserved by South Carolina Political Collections [SCPC], a division of the University of South Carolina Libraries.

SCPC is a special collections repository focused on documenting government, politics and society in the post-World War II era. It currently holds 118 collections, including the papers of 27 members of Congress, 11 governors, both the South Carolina Democratic and Republican parties, the League, and 8 League-related collections. SCPC collections include the papers of several members of South Carolina's current congressional delegation, including our senior senator, Lindsey Graham, and **League leaders Keller Barron, Mary Kelly, Sarah Leverette, and Barbara Moxon.**

The League archives contains detailed files documenting the League's interest in and research on all aspects of government, from the very form of government adopted by South Carolina's cities, to issues such as education, the judiciary, water quality, and voting. Detailed descriptions of the League's and related SCPC collections are available to anyone with access to SCPC's web site, anywhere in the world, [library.sc.edu/scpc/](http://library.sc.edu/scpc/).

These detailed collection descriptions draw scholars from across the country and around the world to the Hollings Library, a state-of-the art facility that opened during the summer of 2010. SCPC staff welcome visits from the general public and are particularly happy to provide tours to groups of League members. If interested in a tour, simply contact us at 803-777-



0582 or [scpc@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:scpc@mailbox.sc.edu). Staff is also eager to assist with research into SCPC collections.

Future *From the Archives* columns will look at specific issues studied by the League and events and individuals in League history. The following is a taste of what will come.

**In the 1960s and 1970s, South Carolina League leaders participated in a national project interviewing members of Congress. The interviews were typically conducted during visits to Washington for meetings of the National Council. Shown here in 1967 is then-League President Keller Bumgardner and Board member Claire Randall with recently elected U.S. Senator "Fritz" Hollings and Congressman Tom Gettys, both of whom were interviewed that year.**

**The report on a 1970 interview with Hollings noted, *We talked about the Textile problem. He sees it in lost jobs – 50,000 in U.S., 5,000 in S.C. We pointed out that J. P. Stevens had made an increased profit in this quarter, he said that was what they were good at, making profits, but that the plant profits did not indicate the affect [sic] on the personnel. He said the Japanese would only bargain in their own interest. He was concerned about the German BASF plant coming into S.C. and thought it proper for the Federal government to be interested. Actually, the interview was very satisfactory. He gave us his views. . . 11 members went, 2 from Charleston, his home town.***

Please make your tax deductible gift to support the [Sarah Leverette League of Women Voters Endowment](#).

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# The 2015 SC Legislative Session

By Lynn Shuler Teague, LWVSC VP, Issues and Action

This summary was written as the 2015 session ended its last regular week. It was a session marked by little progress on most major issues of concern to the citizens of South Carolina, despite a beginning that seemed auspicious.

**Ethics Reform:** Months before the session began, House Speaker Jay Lucas convened groups to study major issues (ethics, roads, and others) so that the House could begin the session with well-vetted proposals already in place. The League was very active in working with the House Ethics Reform Committee chaired by Rep. Derham Cole with subcommittees on investigation and enforcement (Chair Rep. Tommy Pope), campaign finance (Chair Rep. Kirkman Finlay) and Freedom of Information Act or FOIA (Chair Rep. Weston Newton). Their excellent work resulted in a series of 26 bills, most of which were passed by the House in both individual form and consolidated in an omnibus bill for the consideration of the Senate. Some aspects of reform were weakened during this process, but on the whole the bills that came out of the House would have been a major improvement on current law.

The Senate began with S.1, a strong reform bill sponsored by Senator Larry Martin, Chair of Senate Judiciary, who has been a tireless advocate for ethics reform. This bill was forwarded from Judiciary, but Senator Rankin put forward an amendment to provide a façade claiming to be, but failing to be, independent investigation of complaints against legislators. Those who voted for this bill included Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, several Republicans, and the Democratic caucus. Supporters of real reform voted to kill the bill on second reading rather than accept this amendment.

The Senate Judiciary Committee inserted the language of S. 1 into the

House omnibus bill, H.3722, forming a basis for the consideration of both House and Senate committees in an eventual conference committee, which did not happen, because of objections by Senator Matthews, with the backing of his Democratic caucus. The right wing of the Republican Party opposed provisions that would require disclosure of donors supporting electioneering communications. Despite continued efforts by Senator Martin, it was not possible to allow the bill to be debated. However, it was ultimately learned that opponents had other objections to reform.

When Senator Martin brought a series of individual House bills (including private income disclosure and third party expenditure donor disclosures) through the Judiciary Committee, Senator Bright placed a minority report on two of the bills based on electioneering concerns. Subsequently, Senator Matthews again placed objections on ethics bills except one, a bill that would allow more campaign donations toward runoff elections. We will discover in the next session whether this opposition to a broad array of reform measures continues.

**Grand Jury Reform:** S.268 was filed by Senator Larry Martin in cooperation with Attorney General Alan Wilson to correct significant problems in the State Grand Jury process that were exposed during the Harrell investigation. This bill passed both Senate and House, with the Senate concurring with a House amendment, and has been signed by the Governor.

**Meeting Agendas and Autopsy Disclosures:** Two bills related to specific problems in public information were filed to correct problems identified through court rulings. A bill to correct problems in requirement of

published agendas prior to public meetings (S.11, Larry Martin primary sponsor) has been passed and ratified. An autopsy disclosure bill (S.10, Larry Martin primary sponsor), which would require release of the cause of death, is stalled.

## **Criminal Domestic Violence:**

South Carolina's regrettable distinction as a state where domestic violence is an especially serious problem is addressed in S.3 (Senator Larry Martin). Despite many obstacles it has been passed by both houses in a strong form and was signed by Governor Haley on June 4. It is not an ideal bill, but it provides a strong beginning.

**Education:** Progress toward resolution of problems identified in the Abbeville case has been limited to the creation of a study commission.

**Environment:** It has been a difficult year for environmental issues, but lobbyists for Coastal Conservation League and for Conservation Voters of South Carolina, joined by others, have been effective in preventing some of the worst outcomes. S.139 and H.3378 (sponsored by Sen. Cleary and Rep. Herbkersman, respectively) would have addressed the serious problem of development migrating seaward when there are beach restoration projects, and would have set a permanent baseline on beaches by July 2015. Unfortunately, both bills are stalled in committee.

A budget proviso sponsored by Sen. Cleary would permit the long-contested Debordieu seawall. Efforts will be made to remove the proviso in conference committee. Bills to redefine the Dorchester County coastal zone, removing 90% of the area currently protected, are stalled.

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

*continued on page 8 –*



## LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

*continued from page 7 –*

Unconstitutional bills to provide amnesty for past unpermitted pollution are stalled in committee. Bills to send appeals of DHEC decisions straight to Administrative Law Court, increasing costs for those appealing, are also stalled. A bill (S.165) that would allow projects to be built while environmental permits are under appeal is stalled on the Senate floor.

Bills to address the serious problems arising from unregulated mega-farm water withdrawals (S.58 sponsored by Senator Chip Campsen; H.3564 sponsored by Rep. James Smith) failed to gain traction under heavy attack from the SC Farm Bureau, their lobbyists, and internally from former Farm Bureau lobbyist Rep. Russell Ott. Conservation Bank funding level depends upon conference committee, balancing the House appropriate of \$9.8 million with \$22 million from the Senate. S.519 and H.3869 would extend the sunset provision time for the Bank, add an additional 5 cents, and get rid of the death clause. Both bills have been carried over until next year.

## Women's Reproductive Health:

A bill to restrict abortions at 20+ week (H.3114, Rep. Wendy Nanney, primary sponsor) passed the House without exceptions for any circumstances.

Although some opponents hoped for that a Senate filibuster against the bill would lead to defeat, a compromise moved the bill aside so that the Senate could attempt to address other bills on the calendar, especially bonding and roads funding. The compromise added exceptions for rape and incest and for fetal anomalies so severe that postpartum life could not be sustained. Senate passage of this bill, with its seriously flawed science and indefensible intrusion on the lives of women, was then possible. A filibuster by Senator Lee Bright, who opposed any exceptions, was ended by a cloture vote. The bill was sent to the House for concurrence with the Senate exceptions,

but the House returned to their original version without exemptions. Rep. James Smith introduced 37 amendments. Smith and his allies (Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter and Rep. Justin Bamberg) did not defeat the bill, but they succeeded in delaying passage until the end of the next-to-last day of the regular session while also providing the House with accurate medical and constitutional information about the bill. The Republican caucus and some House Democrats (including Mike Anthony, Justin Bamberg, Grady Brown, Laurie Funderburk, Kenneth Hodges, Joe McEachern, Walton McLeod, and Mandy Powers Norrell) voted to table the amendments. The bill awaits resolution by a conference committee.

**Transportation:** Four major bills to provide funding for roads were filed and debated at various levels. None passed in this session. None of the bills made needed reforms to insure repair of existing roads takes priority over construction of major new roads, which often have low or non-existent priority ratings on the SCDOT rankings but politically powerful backers.

In a Senate Transportation Committee meeting, Senator Wes Hayes noted that the Senate Rules are now producing a dysfunctional body, and that major bills, such as road funding and ethics reform, need reform of Senate rules for passage.

**Medical Funding:** Through his work with Healthcare for All, League board member David Ball succeeded having a bill filed to establish single-payer healthcare funding in South Carolina. The LWVSC has been actively working with the Close the Gap South Carolina coalition to plan for advocacy on closing the Medicaid gap in South Carolina. Senator Joel Lourie introduced a budget proviso in Senate Finance Committee to address this issue but it did not move forward. Senators Lourie and Clary filed the bill, S.835, during the last week of regular session. In the long term, progress will depend on the

Supreme Court's decision on the challenge to subsidies to individuals in states without state-managed healthcare exchanges.

**Voting and Elections:** No major election and voting bills made progress in this session. Bills were introduced by Rep. Walton McLeod (H.4078, H.4080) to bring increased General Assembly scrutiny to purchase of new election technology. H.4080, requiring a study committee in the General Assembly, passed the House but did not receive a hearing in the Senate.

**Summary:** This session has not produced many positive improvements in South Carolina government. From the perspective of LWVSC, the Grand Jury improvements are significant. The Criminal Domestic Violence bill is important although not one that we worked on actively.

Events at the end of the session confirmed that opposition to ethics reform in the Senate is broader than proponents had realized. Without reform of Senate rules, the possibility of progress on issues of importance to the state is very limited.

The brightest spot of the session has been a greatly improved working atmosphere in the House, where careful study, deliberation, and bipartisan cooperation grew markedly under the leadership of Speaker Jay Lucas. The bright spot in the Senate has been the hard work of some senators, especially Larry Martin, Chip Campsen, and their allies on ethics, criminal domestic violence, and environmental issues that are important to the League.

If you see the name of your representative or senator in this discussion, please let them know that you support his or her position, or that you oppose it. Encourage our legislators to do the right thing!





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# Thanks For Supporting our League in 2014-2015

*A big thanks to our many donors who helped keep the work of the League going in 2014-15! We received \$3,235 from individual donors to the General Fund and \$4,552 to the Education Fund.*

## **Contributors to the General Fund were:**

Keller Barron	Margaret Huchet	Janelle Rivers
Katherine Beard	Auvo Kemppinem	Virginia Rosenberg
Jean Caplan	Carolyn Medich	Chester Sansbury
JoAnne Day	Sarah Mellon	Janie Shipley
Linda Gahan	Victoria Middleton	Laurel Suggs
Virginia Ghirardelli	Karen Mitchell	Holley Ulbrich
Cheryl Hamilton	Denny Neilson	Carolyn Voight
Dianne Haselton	Dorothy Perkins	Renee Wagensiell
Marian Hayes	B. Reed	Andrew Yasinsac
Charlotte Holmes	Ellen Reneke	
Leslie Howard	William Rice	

## **Contributors to the Education Fund were:**

Pamela Craig	Ann Maletic
Linda Cimadon	Marianne McGrath
JoAnne Day	Jean Norman
Frances Elmore	Elizabeth Oakman
Joan Furlong	Jane Pulling
Eleanor Hare	Susan Richards
Neal Jones	Janie White
Christe McCoy-Lawrence	Barbara Zia

## LWVSC Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Grant – (2014-2015)

*By Paula Egelson, LWVSC VP for Voter Service (2013-2015)*

LWVSC was awarded a PAVP grant by the LWVUS Education fund for 2014-2015. The goals associated with this grant were creating a voter advocacy network in South Carolina, voter education trainings by local Leagues in their communities, and sharpening the LWVSC voter education communication toolkit and website.

### **Voter Advocacy Network**

The voter advocacy network was designed to increase voter registration, education, engagement and protection through advocacy while also developing a database dedicated to voter registration, protection, and election reform issues. This network is intended to serve as a permanent coalition of voter advocates.

Working with LWV SC's partners of ACLU, AARP, NAACP, SC Council of Disabilities and Lawyers Committee for the Civil Rights under Law, LWVSC held an initial meeting of interested nonprofits in August 2014 in Columbia. There were 45 people in attendance. LWVSC and partner representatives individually spoke about the need for such a voting advocacy network. A follow-up conference call of network members focused on key voter advocacy issues took place in January 2015. Since August 2014, the LWVSC has sent regular targeted emails about voter advocacy issues to network members.

LWVSC is still in the initial stages of developing this voter advocacy network. A LWVSC board member will assume management of the network from 2015-16.

### **Local League Voter Education Trainings**

A second goal was providing voter education trainings in partnership with local leagues, with emphasis on reaching counties where there are currently no local leagues. Eight voter education events reflected the specific needs of the community were scheduled by local Leagues in 2014 and 2015 in Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Darlington, Greenville, Florence, Hilton Head/Bluffton, and Sumter. Charleston's tri-county voter forum in August will include local election board representatives, voter education, and non-profits. Clemson sponsored voter education events focused on older adults and minorities. Columbia conducted training on local voter education issues. Darlington held a meeting about monitoring elections and expanding poll worker diversity. Greenville's event was held at a public housing facility and included polling issues, absentee voting, photo ID, and voter registration. Florence will hold a voter education event about equality and voter registration in August. Hilton Head/Bluffton's events focused on

local voter education issues. Sumter's tri-county voter education training included local election board representatives, voter education, and non-profits. In addition, a voter education event for the United Methodist Women advocacy day was presented by the LWV SC board.

### **Sharpen Communication Tools**

The third goal was to continue to expand and improve the LWVSC Voter Education and Protection toolkit, including a PowerPoint presentation, informational handouts, and videos. This information will continue to be available on LWVSC's voter information webpage(s). LWVSC has expanded its use of traditional media, such as radio and print, while seeking new pathways to communicate with citizens such as Twitter, YouTube videos and other social media. LWVSC's Save All Votes website was completely redesigned and is now more comprehensive in scope. Website categories include a voter toolkit, links to SC voter's organizations, voting in SC, voting news, LWVSC information, and voter education PowerPoints. Radio and newspaper are used in local communities for voter education. Our Twitter use has expanded as has use of Facebook.



# Report from the SC Voting System Fair

League members JoAnne Day, Julie Hussey, Lynn Teague, Bill Hare and Eleanor Hare attended the SC Voting System Fair on May 13, organized by the South Carolina State Elections Commission. Six manufacturers were invited to attend and four participated.

## LWV Voting Technology Requirements

The LWV supports only voting systems that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent (the SARAT requirements). A complete description of these requirements is found in the LWV publication, Issues and Action<sup>i</sup>. An initial examination of the voting systems on display at the Voting Fair focuses on two of the SARAT principles:

1. The voting system employs a voter-verified paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter's intent, and
2. The voter can verify, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who have impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent.

## Analyzing the Technologies

Examination of voting systems is not as cut-and-dried as it was a decade ago. Whether the voting system meets LWV requirements depends on the options selected. Unfortunately, every manufacturer provided the possibility of a Direct Register Electronic (DRE)<sup>ii</sup> machine for use by disabled voters. Because DRE machines do not produce a paper ballot, these machines are unacceptable to the League.



Barcodes on the ES&S ExpressVote are used to count the vote.

## Dominion Voting

### (ImageCast):

Paper ballots verified by voter: **MAYBE**

*Notes: Most voters use hand-marked paper ballots. There are two options for voters with disabilities:*

**Options 1:** *The ImageCast Precinct (ICP) functions as a DRE. Option 2: The ImageCast Evolution (ICE) allows voters to print and cast a paper ballot.*

## Election Systems & Software (ES&S ExpressVote):

Paper ballots verified by voter: **NO**

*Notes: There are two optional configurations of this equipment. Option 1: The ballot is dropped directly into the ballot box. Using Option 1, the voter is not allowed to examine the ballot before it is cast. Option 2: The voter receives the ballot, but is unable to verify that the ballot reflects their intent because only barcodes are used to count the vote. The voter has no way to verify the barcodes. (Don't be misled by the text on the ballot because it is not used to count the vote.)*

## Everyone Counts:

Paper ballots verified by voter: **MAYBE** (YES using Option 2))

*Notes: There are two optional configurations of this equipment. Option 1: The equipment functions as a DRE. Option 2: The voter prints a ballot, which is read by a scanner. When the ballot is read by the scanner, the contents of the ballot is shown on a screen so that the voter may verify that their ballot is being read correctly by the scanner. (The voter reads the ballot twice: first when receiving the printed ballot and a second time when the scanner reports the selections it reads.)*

## Hart (Verity):

Paper ballots verified by voter: **SOME** (voters with disabilities use a DRE)

*Notes: The presentation cited Verity Touch, a DRE, and hand-marked paper ballots for most voters.*



Left to right: Bill Hare, Lynn Teague, JoAnne Day, Julie Hussey and Eleanor Hare (not shown) attended the SC Voting System Fair on May 13, organized by the South Carolina State Elections Commission.

We saw several large, heavy voting boxes and heard elections directors commenting about how heavy they were to move. Several manufacturers cited their use of new technology, including tablets and other off-the-shelf components that would lower the overall cost of their systems.

## The Selection Process

Ms. Kimber Craig of the S.C. Information Technology Management Office (ITMO) presented the timeline for purchase of new voting technology:

- Prior to October 2015, suggestions for factors on which the technology is evaluated should be made to the State Elections Commission.
- October 2015: The ITMO issues a Request for Proposal (RFP). After the RFP is released, suggestions for changes should be made directly to the ITMO office. Evaluation factors (price, security, etc.) are included in the RFP in order of importance.
- December 2015: A conference or site visit will be held with vendors to review specifications in the RFP. The RFP may be amended as a result of this review.
- March 2016: Proposals are due back from vendors.
- April 2016: Evaluation process begins. The State Elections Commission selects the members of the Evaluation Committee, forwarding their names to the ITMO.
- August 2016: Anticipated posting of evaluations. There is a 10-day period to protest the evaluation and award.

<sup>i</sup> Page 13, <http://lwv.org/files/Impact-on-Issues-2012-2014.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Our current voting machines, the ES&S iVotronics, are DRE machines.

# Rally for Clean Air and Clean Energy

By Rob Sobczak, LWV of Greenville County

In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide are pollutants under the Clean Air Act and that the EPA must take steps to regulate them based on peer-reviewed research which shows that greenhouse gases endanger human health and welfare. The EPA released draft carbon pollution standards (The Clean Power Plan) for current power plants and set up hearings for public comment at each regional office which for South Carolina meant a trip to Atlanta. Power plants account for 40 % of the carbon pollution in the US. Currently, we limit mercury, arsenic, lead, and soot from power plants but not carbon pollution-the key driver of climate disruption. The Clean Power Plan will close that loophole and limit carbon pollution for the first time ever. Nearly half of all Americans will have cleaner air in their communities if strong regulations are put into place and enforced.

Last summer I got an e-mail from the LWV on the importance of attending the EPA hearings on the proposed carbon pollution regulations. Then I heard that the SC Chapter of the Sierra Club received grant money to rent a bus to go to Atlanta for the hearings on the regulations and they wanted warm bodies to fill the bus. I could think of a lot of reasons not to spend a day on a bus. But then I thought of a few reasons why I should. The environment is something I have worked to protect for years. And these regulations are important. They are the first ever attempt by the US to seriously deal with a source of climate disruption. I love the outdoors and I want the air to be clean and safe whether I am at home or out hiking. I am retired and I have the time. So why not. Years ago, I got on a bus and registered voters for the Bobby Kennedy presidential campaign. Some 45 years later, I still have the desire to get involved and participate in the democratic process. I just have not given up.

My wife Kathleen and I got on the bus with a group from Greenville and Asheville. There were buses heading to

Georgia from Tennessee and Kentucky as well. When we got to the rally in downtown Atlanta, we got t-shirts and signs. We heard politicians from Atlanta talk about the need to clean up the air. We heard speeches by former civil rights activists who believe that cleaning up the air is as important as the civil right issues of the 60's. It turns out there are a lot more of us old activists than I thought. And we are all looking pretty good. Being



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is what  
the League is all about.  
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involved in participatory democracy must be good for you. As I looked around at the crowd, I was impressed with the demographic mix of the crowd: Young and old, and very racially and ethnically mixed. There were also many faith based groups. One just did not see many minorities or religious organizations in the early years of the environmental movement. Now the concept of environmental justice has taken hold. Environmental issues are definitely more mainstream and I was greatly encouraged by the diversity of the group.

We then marched to the EPA hearings, waving signs and chanting. And quite

frankly, we were having fun. This is how we bring about change in this country. EPA did a great job of setting up the hearings. There were two huge rooms. Everyone who wanted to speak had a chance to sign up for 5 minutes or could submit a written comment. Since there were people on our bus who had late evening time slots, we were there for the whole day. And I was never bored. The comments were well prepared and well delivered for the most part. Both sides were respectful. If numbers mean anything, there were more yellow "beyond coal" t-shirts in the audience than "suits". But I know that industry interests are fighting these regulations and will do what they can to insure that coal continues to be burnt with little regulation.

## Some highlights from the comments are:

- A fourth generation coal miner said that mining coal was no way to earn a living. Coal advocates never talk about the health toll on the families who work the mines and live in the polluted environment.
- A young man from a strong religious background said that he does his part but that the government needs to step up to the plate and do its part to regulate carbon.
- A doctor spoke about the need for less carbon pollution. He said he never needs to check the official air quality index because he can tell by the number of office visits and patient phone calls.

Informed advocacy is what the League is all about. Look for an opportunity to make your voice heard.

**See photo on back cover from the Clean Air and Clean Energy Rally**



# LWV SC Voter

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Ron Sobczak and Kathleen Kempe Rally for Clean Air and Energy.