

Hello, South Carolina League Leaders. The LWVSC Board of Directors met on February 4. Here is news from that meeting and more. We hope you'll find it useful for the incredible work you are doing in your communities.

Barbara and Peggy

**ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP**

Save the Date: LWVSC's 2012 Council Meeting, Saturday, April 14, in Columbia. Planning is underway for an exciting day of fun, learning and networking for League members from across South Carolina. Already confirmed on the agenda are Andy Brack, publisher of the online journal "Statehouse Report," who will talk about how things are working in our state government. Dr. Nick Rigas, director of the renewable energy focus area of the Clemson University Restoration Institute in North Charleston, will address us on the future of renewable energy and work underway at his facility, the world's largest wind turbine drive train testing project. There will be updates by LWVSC specialists on action priority issues, as well as a workshop on growing and leading your League, and so much more. We hope you will participate in Council and encourage others in your leadership team and membership to join us. The LWV stands for the active, informed participation of citizens in democratic processes at all levels of government. What better way to exercise that democratic right and responsibility than in the grassroots governance of the League? Look for a Call to Council with a final agenda as we get closer to April 14.

Local League Annual Meetings--With spring around the corner, it's time to plan your League's annual meeting. Attached is a helpful primer on planning annual meetings. Contact Peggy Appler, LWVSC Leadership Development Specialist, to discuss ideas for making your annual meeting an energizing event for members (dappler@homesc.com).

LWVUS Convention, June 8-12, Washington, DC---Local Leagues are urged to register for convention. Go to <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources>. Everything you need to know is there, including the registration form. Local League boards appoint voting delegates based on their membership count as of Feb. 1, 2012, but any League member can attend in a nonvoting capacity.

Contact Peggy or Barbara if you need additional delegate slots for your League. Sometimes a local League is willing to grant unfilled slots to other Leagues. You can also put out a request to Leagues in other states on the LWV-Convention listserve. The procedure for being a delegate for another League is informal. The delegate goes informed but not "instructed" by the League s/he is representing. Also let us know if you are interested in ride- or room-sharing for convention.

Membership Numbers Are In!--The February 1st member count shows that South Carolina League membership increased by 46 members over the past year. Our membership numbers are moving in the right direction. This is due to YOUR commitment and hard work. Thanks and congratulations.

Per-Member-Payment--The LWVSC Board approved permitting local Leagues to satisfy 25 percent of their state per member payment from their accounts in the LWV Education Fund. The board also approved a proposed budget that maintains the state PMP at its current level (\$14) for the 2012-13 fiscal year. Feel free to contact LWVSC Treasurer Dianne Haselton with questions (dhs1tn@nctv.com)

Leadership News--There is lots to report.

The state League Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Carole Cato as Advocacy Director. We are grateful to Carole for her outstanding service as a League leader, advocating for our positions, teaching us about citizen advocacy, and educating citizens about voting. Carole remains an active Leaguer but is off on new adventures, including a radio show in Columbia.

Marty Hucks, LWV/Florence Area member and Francis Marion University Department of Nursing professor, was appointed on-board LWVSC Healthcare Director.

Mary Ann Burt, member at large from Colleton County and former LWVSC president, has been appointed a LWVUS Shur Fellow for the Membership and Leadership Development project.

Peggy Appler, LWV/Charleston Area member and former LWVSC vice president, has been nominated to serve on the LWVUS Board.

## **ISSUES & ACTION**

Voter Access: LWVSC to Intervene in Photo ID Lawsuit--A report on activities to defeat voter suppressive legislation was emailed to League leaders last week.

In addition, the LWVSC Board voted to intervene in South Carolina's appeal of the Department of Justice's decision to block the state's voter photo ID law. In this effort, LWVSC is working with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and ACLU. The case will go before a federal 3-judge panel in Washington, DC, and probably to the US Supreme Court. We will keep you informed of developments.

Conservation Lobby Day at the Statehouse, Feb. 28, 11 am-3 pm--Leaguers are invited to participate in this exciting annual event. It is sponsored Conservation Common Agenda, a coalition of SC conservation groups (LWVSC serves on its steering committee). Lobby Day is an opportunity to join conservation advocates from all over South Carolina to share with legislators why you feel it's important to protect SC's clean land, air, energy and water. To participate in Lobby Day, please contact Chester Sansbury [csansbury1@sc.rr.com](mailto:csansbury1@sc.rr.com) or Jan Hammett ([jjhammett7@att.net](mailto:jjhammett7@att.net)).

Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children--Rita Paul, LWVSC Child Welfare Director, monitored the committee's Feb. 2nd meeting in Columbia. Three legislators were present: Senators Mike Fair (Chair) and Brad Hutto, and Rep. Mia Butler Garrick. Others present were agency heads and citizen members. Harry Davis with the Children's Law Center (and former DJJ director) is the citizen chair. The main focus was to share the draft report that will be going to the full body in March. There were some questions and tweeking that will be done prior to that. The focus of the report is to present the big picture of what is going on across agencies with regard to children in SC with the hopes of offering some guidance to policy makers that may guide their decisions going forward. Resources are identified (across agencies) that impact children. The report is about the services that are actually being provided, not what should be or could be. The remainder of the meeting was a brief discussion of pending legislation that impacts children and policies. Bottom line: There will be some tweeking of some of the data; DSS was not happy with some of the data about abused/neglected children and those coming in and out of foster care. Staff will work on the report over the coming weeks and come back to the committee with a final report for approval. Soon after that there will be a press conference to release the report and present to legislature. Additional information is at <http://www.sccommitteeonchildren.org/index.shtml>.

Human Trafficking--For any local Leagues that would like to organize a presentation on human trafficking, Martha Hurley, LWVSC Criminal/Juvenile Justice Director, can provide a list of potential speakers and forward some materials related to the issue. Twin bills, H. 3757 and S. 1135, are sitting in judiciary committees in both chambers, but have support from some key legislators. LWVSC supports these measures.

Martha will be emailing a request to local Leagues asking for the names of any members who are interested in criminal/juvenile justice issues.

LWVSC Education Study: Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers--As previously announced, the study committee decided it will not be ready to hold consensus meetings this spring. Instead, committee members will prepare for consensus meetings in the fall and adoption of a position at the 2013 LWVSC convention. A committee meeting is scheduled in Columbia on March 10th. The purpose

will be to review research, discuss possible consensus questions and think about other ways to involve members and inform the public.

The S.C. Department of Education is on a timeline that uses this school year (2012-2013) to develop a new (revised?) teacher and principal evaluation process. According to the Department, they will field test the new process next school year (2013-2014), with implementation in the following school year (2014-2015).

As indicated, the study timetable is to provide consensus questions for local Leagues to consider in Fall 2012, with a goal of adopting a position at LWVSC Convention in Spring 2013.

Contacts: Jon Butzon (jbutzon@sc.rr.com) and Peggy Huchet (mhuchet@comcast.net).

## **VOTERS SERVICE/CITIZEN EDUCATION**

Youth Voter Registration Project--We are thrilled to announce that LWVUS has worked with Discovery Creative (affiliated with the Discovery Channel) to produce an innovative new video, "Take Control". Please view it here:[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=cFvT1BQb-fs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=cFvT1BQb-fs). The video is geared toward motivating potential new voters to register and vote. We encourage you to think about how you might use this, including in the classroom. The video is available via YouTube and is only available in web format and quality, so must be played on a computer with internet access. LWVUS is unable to provide DVDs of the video, but can provide the original video file if necessary.

Local Leagues are formulating their voter registration plans, contacting schools, and scheduling voter registration events. LWVSC is in the process of dispersing the first half grant funding to local Leagues that returned their agreement forms. Questions? Contact Paula Egelson at paulaserv@aol.com.

"Patriocracy"--The LWVSC-sponsored showing in Columbia on Jan. 18 was a huge success. About 200 people turned out to view the film that documents the need for less political polarization and more civility in our national and state public discourse. The screening was followed by a discussion with stellar panelists such as Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS president, former Congressman John Spratt, and former Attorney General Henry McMaster.

Filmmaker Brian Malone will make the film available to local Leagues for showings in their communities. He asks that Leagues send him \$5 per attendee after the showing, based on an honor system. Contact Brian at: Malone Media Group, LLC; brian@malonetv.com; 303.888.9649; [www.malonetv.com](http://www.malonetv.com); PO Box 1612, Castle Rock, CO 80104.

LWV/Greenville County will be showing the movie "Patriocracy" on May 1st as a fundraiser. Former Congressman Bob Inglis is invited as part of the panel afterwards. LWVGC will be supplying popcorn and soft drinks to folks and charging \$10.00 admission. The venue will seat 100 people.

Vote 411--Presidents should have received information from LWVUS about subscribing to VOTE411, the national League's online voters guide. Leagues have an opportunity to participate at a cost based on their membership size. Peggy and Barbara will be contacting local League presidents to discuss.