

Hello, South Carolina League Leaders. We hope you are managing to beat the summer heat and looking forward eagerly to cooler fall weather, as we are. Here is an update on what's going on with the League in SC.

Yours in League,
Barbara and Peggy, LWVSC Co-Presidents

MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

League Leaders Day--Remember to register for League Leaders Day, Saturday, August 27, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1715 Bull St., Columbia. Attached you will find an agenda and registration information to share with your leadership team and members. The agenda assures opportunities for learning, action and networking for all who attend. Registration information can also be found on the LWVSC website, <http://www.lwvsc.org/whatsnew.html>, and in the Summer SC VOTER.

Don't get left out. Reserve by August 24 to: LWVSC, c/o Dianne Haselton, 119 Tant St., Clemson, SC 29631. Or e-mail your registration to ziab1@comcast.net and pay at the door. Remember: Parking is available in St. Paul's lot next to Fellowship Hall, and at on-street meters (free on Saturdays).

LWVSC Board Retreat--State League Board members participated in a productive and fun retreat at Peggy Appler's Edisto River house on July 22-23. We agreed to retain the vision set for LWVSC at our 2010 retreat: "**We want to be a respected, influential creator of positive change that benefits all of South Carolina and connects citizens to government.**" We refined our strategic plan to include a major focus on membership and leadership development, and reaffirmed our commitment to voter outreach and education, as well as advocating for the policy areas prioritized at state convention. With respect to advocacy strategies, we agreed to continue our focus on developing members and the public as advocates, but will reexamine strategies such as legislative advocacy day that is traditionally held in February.

Past LWVUS Presidents Oral History Project--One of Leaders Day's many highlights will be a panel discussion with past SC League presidents. This session is part of a project to gather oral histories from LWVSC presidents since 1976. Project committee members Keller Barron, Sej Harmon, Lucille Mould and Betsy Oakman have interviewed past presidents and are preparing a publication. The oral history will be part of the update to Proud Heritage that Sheila Haney is working on. Please join us on September 30 at 7 pm for a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the LWVSC's official recognition by the national League and presentation of the oral histories for archiving in the Ernest F. Hollings Collections Library at the University of South Carolina, as part of the South Carolina Political Collections. This program will take place at the Library, Greene St. at Sumter St., Columbia.

Women's Equality Observances--The 91st anniversary of Women's Equality Day is August 26. To make the most of this recognition, the League and our Women's Equality partners (including Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics, SC Women Lawyers Assoc. and Alliance for Women) will prepare and distribute to high schools, colleges and universities, a one-page

fact sheet about the history of women in South Carolina. In this manner, August 26 will represent the "past" for women in our state.

Now for SC women's "future": Mark your calendars for Wed., September 7, at 11 am, when organizations representing women's interests will meet at the State House for a press conference representing the "future" for women in SC. The theme for the press conference will be "A seat at the table", the foundation for the Southeastern Institute's Mission 2012 campaign, calling for more women than ever before to run for and be elected to office at all levels. The press conference will draw attention to 4-5 key challenge areas (e.g., economic/jobs, politics, judicial). As a demonstration of the diverse perspectives women bring to that "table" women representing specific interests will carry a unique chair to the press conference and present a 30-second sound bite to the media related to their organization's key interest. Following the press conference, all attendees are invited to a casual box lunch across the street with a speaker and simple goal of bringing women together for a shared cause. Detailed information will be provided at Leaders Day on August 27.

Leadership Teams--Many thanks for submitting lists of your new local League officers and directors. The 2011-2012 LWVSC Leaders Directory, as well as the 2011-2013 About the League & Agenda for Action (LWVSC public policy positions) will be available at League Leaders Day for you to share with your leadership team.

Database Update for Your League's Leaders--Please enter your League's leadership changes in the LWVUS Online System--<https://member.lwv.org/Login.asp>. This will ensure that key members of your leadership team receive important information from LWVUS.

To access your local League information, you'll need your League's user id and password. You'll find instructions for working with the LWVUS online database at <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=OnlineRoster&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=110&ContentID=9533>

Need assistance accessing your League's user id and password or with the online system? Contact:

Betty Taira in the LWVUS office in Washington, DC, at 202-429-1965/btaira@lwv.org;
Janie Shipley, LWVSC Member Services VP, is available to assist you at 864-885-1967/janrel@mindspring.com; or

Laurel Suggs at lsuggs@imgsc.com is also happy to answer any questions or walk you through the process.

VOTERS SERVICE AND CITIZEN EDUCATION

Election calendar--Important local and state elections will be held in South Carolina in 2011-12. Plus, 2012 is a presidential election year. This is a good time to ramp up your services to voters, plan voter registration drives, and prepare for the busy cycle of elections. For complete calendars of state elections in 2011 and 2012, go to <http://www.scvotes.org>. Click: Elections-->2012 Election Calendar. The calendar is updated as information is added from local election boards.

Voter Photo ID--At this writing, South Carolina's new voter photo ID law has not gone into effect. As you may know, South Carolina needs Section 5 pre-clearance from the federal government before implementing any change to state voting procedures. S.C. Attorney General Wilson sent the legislation to the U.S. Department of Justice in late May, initiating a 60-
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day review period during which individuals and groups may submit comments to the DOJ. During the review period that ends August 29, DOJ is receiving comments from individuals with concerns that their voting rights may be violated and groups whose members will be adversely affected by photo id. LWVSC is sending a comment letter to DOJ; local Leagues may do so as well if you have concerns that voting rights in your communities will be impacted.

The new requirement for a current and valid government-issued photo ID will go into effect when and if DOJ pre-clears the law. Until then, procedures for registering to vote and voting are unchanged. Currently, the state Department of Motor Vehicles is offering photo IDs free of charge to voters. Taking the DMV route requires presenting a certified birth certificate along with documentation of any name change. An easier course of action for registered voters is to go to the county board of voter registration when photo ID-making equipment is available there (probably by fall 2011); in this case, only a S.C. Voter Registration Card without photo, or a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck/stub, or government document with your name and address in your county of registration is needed. Thus, it is important to register as many eligible citizens as voters as possible.

At our retreat in July, the state League leadership team agreed to undertake a campaign to educate voters about voting procedures, identify eligible voters who lack a required photo id to vote and help them obtain it, assist concerned citizens with submitting comments to the DOJ, and register new voters. We launched the campaign with the Voter Photo ID Toolkit that includes a Power Point presentation, voter information fact sheet, and questionnaire that concerned citizens can use for DOJ submissions. We recently emailed these materials to local League presidents and our voting rights partners. In addition, you can find the Toolkit at <http://lwvsc.org/voterphotoid.html>. On the website is the PDF version of the presentation; contact Barbara at <mailto:ziab1@comcast.net> if you would like to receive the Power Point file by email. Thanks to LWV/Greenville County members for their work on producing these materials. A pocket-size "take-away" card with voter information will be available soon; it will be useful for your voter registration and outreach efforts.

High School Voter Registration Project--We will soon be sharing information with you about a LWV initiative to register South Carolina youth to vote, coordinated by Paula Egelson and Laurel Suggs from the state League Board. At Leaders Day each local League will receive a copy of the LWV Education Fund's new Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow training manual that accompanies the initiative.

ISSUES AND ACTION

LWVSC Study: Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers in the Public Schools--Many thanks to the Leagues that volunteered members for the study committee. Co-chairs Jon Butzon and Peggy Huchet have scheduled a committee meeting for Saturday, September 10, 10 am-2 pm, in Columbia. At the meeting the committee will develop the scope of the study, establish operating procedures, create a timeline, and divide up the work. Please contact Jon (<mailto:cen@charlestonednet.com>) or Peggy (<mailto:mhuchet@comcast.net>) for more information. A list of study resources and reading materials have been posted at <http://lwvsc.org/teacherretention.html>.

LWVUS Study: Role of the Federal Government in Public Education--The Leader's Guide that contains the consensus questions for the study is online. Go to www.lwv.org and click on For Members. From the drop down menu on the left select Projects and Programs. On the right side of that page select Education Study and scroll down to Consensus Kit where you will find

the study guide and consensus questions that you can download. You will also find a link to the Consensus Response Form--Remember, you need your League number to open this and you can only do so once. This is your final report form, not an individual form and not a working document. Only electronic consensus reports may be submitted.

On the website you will find: a link to the webinar on how to do a national study; background papers and newsletter-ready articles prepared by study committee members for download; 3 study Power Points, both in slide and pdf format.

LWV/Columbia member Janelle Rivers is a member of the LWVUS study committee and willing to serve as a resource to our local Leagues. You can email Janelle at rivers12@bellsouth.net. Depending on her availability, she is willing to address your members at meetings or can recommend other speakers.

We urge local Leagues to hold consensus meetings this fall.

Study Timeline:

- May through November 2011: Local Leagues study the "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education," hold consensus meetings, and come to consensus
- November 30: Consensus reports due to LWVUS website at www.lwv.org.
- December 2011 to February 2012: Committee analyzes the data from consensus and writes the position paper for the "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"
- March 2012: LWVUS Board of Directors reviews the consensus results for comment and approval of the position for the "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"