

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CONVENTION MAY 14-15, 2011
SUMTER, S.C.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011

President Barbara Zia called the Plenary Session to order at 9AM.

Welcoming the Convention to Sumter were Chuck Gibbs, LWV Sumter County President and Honorable Joseph T. McElveen, Jr., Mayor of the City of Sumter.

Holley Ulbrich was appointed Parliamentarian; Aggie Edwards, Secretary.

Credentials Report was given by Jeanette Roveri: 59 attending; 36 delegates; 14 State Board; five Observers; one special guest.

Holley Ulbrich presented the proposed Convention rules, noting that, for concurrence, 2/3rds majority is needed. Concurrence is used when one League has studied the issue under consideration.

Dianne Haselton moved adoption of the Rules; Janie Shipley seconded the motion, and the rules were then adopted.

Cynthia Padera, LWVUS staffer coordinating the Judicial Initiative Project, was introduced, along with Mary Klensz LWVUS Board Director and liaison to South Carolina.

Delegates from the newly reconstituted LWV of Hilton Head Island and Bluffton Area were recognized.

Roll Call of Leagues:

Charleston Area, Clemson Area, Columbia Area, Darlington County, Florence Area, Georgetown County, Greenville County, Hilton Head Island/Bluffton, Horry County, Spartanburg County, Sumter County

Treasurer's Report was made by Dianne Haselton. It was noted that the State PMP has not changed in ten years.

Proposed Budget was presented by Rebecca Lambert.

Janie Shipley introduced the proposed by-laws changes.

Article V –Officers- Section 2 There was a request for a definition of “management team”

...explained as an alternative leadership structure...

sharing responsibility. There was a question as to whether local Leagues should make similar changes in their by-laws. It was noted that Mary Klensz will be discussing alternative leadership structures tomorrow.

Convention recessed and heard a presentation by Dr. Jane Brailsford on iCivics.

When Convention reconvened, the credentials report was made: total attendance: 65; delegates and State Board, 54; Observers, six; special guests, two; Convention volunteer workers, three...a majority is 28; 2/3 majority is 36; quorum is eight.

Frances Elmore gave the Nominating Committee Report. Her Committee were introduced: Keller Barron, Lois Parsons, Susan Richards, Laurel Suggs. There were no nominations from the floor. Frances moved the adoption of the slate of officers as proposed.

The vote on the proposed budget and slate of officers will take place on Sunday.

Proposed Program for Study and Action was presented by JoAnne Day, LWVSC Issues and Action Vice President. Time Keeper was Suzanne Rhodes. New in this discussion will be a non-recommended item.

-Rita Paul moved the retention of the Child Welfare position. No discussion.

-Robin Kimbrough-Melton moved the retention of the Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice position. No discussion.

-Rita Paul moved the retention of the Education position (page 11-14 in *Agenda for Action*) and further moved that we add "high" quality to the position summary so that it will now read "Support of public state-supported education at all levels which is *high* quality, effective, equitable and accountable." Sheila Gallagher moved that there be a review of statements #1 through #5 of this position; Chuck Gibbs seconded the motion, which passed.

Discussion of *review* vs *study*. A review would enable us to re-interpret the position, not necessarily to revisit it. Local League members would participate in the review.

There will be a new item on *teacher effectiveness*.

-Peggy Brown moved the retention of the Natural Resources position, and refinement of the existing position by adding *habitat preservation* to the position summary and *nature biota* to statement 11. Insert *habitat preservation* between "land use" and "waste management." Insert *nature biota* thus: manage land, water and *nature biota* as finite....

No discussion.

-Sarah Leverette moved retention of the State and Local Government positions. No discussion.

-Holley Ulbrich moved the retention of the State and local Taxation position. No discussion.

-Susan Richards moved the retention of the Transportation position.

No discussion.

-JoAnne Day reported that in the 2009-2011 biennium, Leagues in South Carolina completed a study of the structure and authority of school districts in S.C.

Based on the consensus results of a state study of the Structure and Authority of School Districts in S.C. adopted at the 2009 Convention, Holley Ulbrich moved the following addition to both our Education and Local Government positions: *Changes in the structures of the school board and/or consolidating, splitting, or redrawing school district lines should be subject to a referendum by the voters in the affected school district(s)*. There was no discussion.

--JoAnne Day reported that the State Board recommends a two-year study of teacher effectiveness in S. C.

Rita Paul moved a Study of Teacher Effectiveness in South Carolina. The Board recommends this be a two-year study with consensus in 2013. As the Education Director for LWVSC, Jon Butzon, was not able to attend, Peggy Huchet of LWV Charleston gave a brief overview of this proposed study.

-JoAnne Day introduced a Board recommended concurrence item for consideration.

Holley Ulbrich moved that we adopt by concurrence the Growth Management position proposed by the LWV of the Clemson Area.

There were no questions for clarification. This will be on the agenda for Sunday.

NON-RECOMMENDED ITEMS:

-Sharon Fratepietro, delegate from LWV Charleston, moved that we consider the adoption by concurrence the Illegal Drug position proposed by the LWV OF Charleston and distributed to local Leagues for consideration. JoAnne Day clarified that the State Board made no recommendation on

this item, as the results received from local Leagues were inconclusive. There was discussion. Would this come under Criminal Justice position on “victimless crimes”? There would be a caucus later in the afternoon. The President clarified that we were voting whether to have this on the agenda for Sunday. The motion passed, and this item would proceed for discussion.

-Peggy Brown presented a Resolution regarding Offshore Drilling on behalf of Elizabeth Weems, President of Horry Co. MAL. She moved consideration; Sheila Gallagher seconded the motion. In the discussion, there were questions for clarification. A resolution can be anything. A resolution does not appear in *Agenda for Action*. There is no written LWVUS position on offshore drilling. Passage requires a simple majority. In the process of discussion, the resolution was revised and the final version follows: *Be it resolved: that we, the member representatives of LWVSC, pledge our commitment, and call upon the LWVSC Board, to apply the resources of the League in support of, and to advocate for local and national energy policy conversion. We support energy production from non-polluting and renewable systems and oppose off shore drilling permits for rapidly depleting fossil fuels. We call for focused application of resources to develop new energy infrastructure as we abandon failed strategies.* The motion to place this resolution on the agenda for Sunday passed.

There followed a luncheon address by The Hon. Curtis M. Loftis, Jr., State Treasurer; a panel discussion “Making Every Vote Count in South Carolina; Ensuring the Integrity of our State’s Voting System” facilitated by Eleanor Hare; and a workshop “the Leadership Ladder: A Tool to Engage Members and Develop Leaders” presented by Mary Klenz and Janie Shipley, Membership Services Vice-President.

President Barbara Zia recessed the Convention for the day at 3:34 PM.

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011

Pres. Barbara Zia reconvened the Convention at 9 AM. She acknowledged the work of Sumter League’s Marie Hill, who assisted with many aspects of the smooth running of this Convention. Mary Klenz presented Barbara with a commendation from LWVUS, recognizing her outstanding contribution to the work of the League and her extraordinary leadership.

-Pres. Zia called for the vote on the proposed budget, which was approved. Budget Committee were Sharon Fennell, Chair, Janie White and Rebecca Lambert. Dianne Haselton served as *ex officio* committee member.

-Pres. Zia called for the vote on the by-laws amendments, which were approved.

-Peggy Appler, Aggie Edwards and Rebecca Lambert, retiring from the Board, were presented with certificates.

-The Convention elected the following for LWVSC Board 2011-2013:

Co-Presidents Peggy Brown (Florence Area) and Barbara Zia (Charleston Area)

Vice-Pres. Issues and Action JoAnne Day (Columbia Area)

Vice-Pres. Community Relations Susan Richards (Charleston Area)

Vice-Pres. Member Services Janie Shipley (Clemson Area)

Treasurer Dianne Haselton (Clemson Area)

Secretary Della Baker (Clemson Area)

Directors: Carole Cato (Columbia Area) Jon Butzon (Charleston Area)

Rita Paul (Columbia Area) Eleanor Hare (Clemson Area) Robin Kimbrough –Melton (Clemson Area)

Jan Hammett (Spartanburg County) Paula Egelson (Charleston Area)

Nominating Committee: Agnes Edwards (Georgetown County)

Jeanette Roveri (Sumter County) Joan Kinne-Shulman (Hilton Head Island /Bluffton Area)

STATE PROGRAM:

- Retention of Child Welfare Position approved
- Retention of Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice position approved
- Retention of the Education position

Sheila Gallagher moved to review the first five support statements under Education Governance Early Childhood through grade 12 in *Agenda for Action*. The motion was seconded and carried. Holley Ulbrich and Sheila Gallagher volunteered to work on this review.

-Teacher Effectiveness Study Linda Gahan moved "Based on our findings, the study committee should develop consensus questions and recommend positions for adoption at the 2013 LWVSC Convention.

I move this amendment to the Study on Evaluating Teachers Based on Results Study." Bill Hare seconded the motion. Keller Barron moved to amend the motion by striking the sentence "based on our findings ...the study committee would develop and recommend positions for adoption at the 2013 LWVSC Convention. Frances Elmore seconded the motion. Keller Barron spoke to her motion. Local Leagues have consensus; Study Committee has the wording; State Board acts on it. Keller withdrew her amendment and then moved that the last sentence be deleted. Pam Craig seconded the motion, which was approved.

(The full wording of this proposed study is found in the Convention Workbook on page 16. The last sentence was deleted and the new study was adopted.)

-Concurrence on LWV Clemson Area's Growth Management position to be added to Natural Resources positions. Approved

-Concurrence on LWV Charleston Area's Illegal Drug Positions

(The full wording of this proposed study is found in the Convention Workbook on page 17) Eleanor Hare moved to strike #2 ...specifically "official drug laws and policies should include...Legal possession of medical marijuana, when prescribed by a physician." Chuck Gibbs seconded the motion to strike this item. There ensued considerable discussion; eventually Sioux Taylor moved to call the question; vote was taken; debate closed. Members wished further discussion.

Sheila Gallagher moved that sections 1 through 6 be deleted and replaced with a statement "Illegal drug use should be considered a public health issue." Keller Barron seconded the motion, which failed. Eventually, Sharon Fratepietro moved that sections 1 through 6 be deleted, and replaced with a single statement: *Illegal drug use should be considered a public health issue. Drug use and addiction should be addressed by substance abuse treatment and education programs instead of incarceration.* Sheila Gallagher seconded the motion. A 2/3rds vote was needed to adopt the amended position, which was approved.

-Peggy Brown presented the amended Offshore Drilling Resolution and moved its adoption. Elaine Faithful seconded the motion. This could come under Natural Resources positions sections 1 and 5. Hanna Reig moved to amend line 14 of the resolution by ending the sentence with the word "strategies." Ada Lou Steirer seconded the motion, which passed. The resolution was approved.

Holley Ulbrich, Parliamentarian, congratulated the Convention for being able to circumvent the adversarial nature of parliamentary procedure!

ACTION PRIORITIES:

The Convention voted:

Education, Voter Access, Tax Reform, Criminal Justice, Transportation, Redistricting...with Natural Resources and Judicial Initiative close behind. JoAnne Day and Holley Ulbrich indicated that priority list was tight...the lowest number of votes received for any one item was 19 (of 54.)

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE

Janie Shipley presented the Greenville LWV with the Membership Growth Award and a \$100 check for an increase of 1% from 2009 to 2011. She awarded certificates of recognition for membership initiative to the following Leagues: Charleston, Darlington, Columbia, Clemson area, Georgetown, Greenville, Hilton Head/Bluffton.

PROUD HERITAGE

Keller Barron discussed the follow up work on "Proud Heritage" which covered League history from 1920 to 1976. Each library in the State was given a copy of this publication, now out of print. There is potential for inclusion in the political collections at USC Library, in the College of Charleston Archives. August 26 is Women's Equality Day...August 27 is League Leaders Day...a past Presidents panel will be on the LLD program. Keller then presented to Co-Presidents Barbara Zia and Peggy Brown the LWV gavel engraved June 1951.

SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY

Peggy Appler and Peggy Brown presented the Spirit of Democracy awardees, Mary Ann Washington Deku and Sarah Leverette.

Acknowledgement:

JoAnne Day recognized the invaluable service of Mary Klenz, LWVUS Board member and liaison to LWVSC.

Next on the Agenda was an Issues to Action Panel.

Aggie Edwards, LWVSC Secretary

Sunday afternoon, May 15

Continuation of Convention Business Recorded by Della Baker, incoming LWVSC Secretary

Action Priorities

Holley Ulbrich asked the convention delegates to rank their top six choices for action priorities.

The result of the vote on Action Priorities for 2011-2013 (listed in priority order) follows:

1. Education
2. Voter Access
3. Tax Reform
4. Criminal Justice
5. Transportation
6. Redistricting (received 50% of the vote)
7. Natural Resource
8. Judicial Independence and Diversity

Spirit of Democracy Award Presentations

Two persons were presented with the Spirit of Democracy Award. President Barbara Zia presented an award to Mary Ann Washington Deku. Peggy Appler presented an award to Sarah Leverette.

Updates on League Study and Action Projects

Holley Ulbrich, Robin Kimbrough-Melton, Carole Cato, Peggy Brown, and Peggy Huchet gave updates on League Study and Action Projects. The session was facilitated by JoAnne Day, LWVSC Vice President, Issues and Action.

Transparency and Independence in the South Carolina Judicial Selection Process

A panel discussion on *Transparency and Independence in the South Carolina Judicial Selection Process* followed. The session was facilitated by Constance Anastopoulo, Assistant Professor of the Charleston School of Law. Panelists were The Honorable W. Jeffrey Young, Circuit Court Judge At-Large; the Honorable J. David Weeks, SC House of Representatives (Dist. 51–Sumter County) and former Chair of the SC Legislative Black Caucus; Janet R. Lynam, member of the Pee Dee Citizens Committee on Judicial Selection; and Sarah Leverette, LWVSC Director (representing the SC Women Lawyers Association in the absence of Victoria Eslinger).

Guidance from Local Leagues

President Zia gave local leagues the opportunity to offer guidance to the LWVSC Board.

- Frances Elmore suggested that LWVSC change its focus for League Advocacy Day and consider joining with another group to meet with and greet SC legislators (for example, focus on environmental issues and partner with the Sierra Club at Advocacy Day).
- Holley Ulbrich made three observations.
 1. She suggested that the board might consider a review of the process of recommending positions and programs for adoption and clarification of the term program.
 2. Ulbrich noted that the current bylaws would allow for a speedier process for the review of the first five positions listed under the topic of Education (p. 11 in the Agenda for Action). We could make the appropriate changes at State Council next year.
 3. Ulbrich stated that she would like to see Board members identify some specific focus for each of the action priorities selected for the new year. Suggesting ways to localize the priorities for League Leaders Day would be helpful to local league presidents.
- Keller Barron identified two upcoming issues of study that need to be pursued in a timely manner – Education (in the Fall) and Privatization (in January). These studies might affect/inform Senator Lindsay Graham and Congressman James Clyburn. She suggested that LWVSC publish a calendar to facilitate the studies in a timely manner.
- Chuck Gibbs requested that a report on redistricting be made in August to give an update on where we are with that issue.
- Carole Cato suggested that a letter be prepared outlining what LWVSC voted on during the convention. The letter could be distributed to public officials.

New LWVSC Presidents' Address

Newly elected co-presidents, Barbara Zia and Peggy Brown gave a joint speech. They thanked the LWVSC members for their support and launched the 7th decade of the League in South Carolina.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.