

I am continually impressed by the good things happening in your Leagues to educate and engage South Carolinians on critical issues like healthcare reform, education and environmental protection. Though the super-heated political summer of 2009 is fading in the rearview mirror, League members remain in high gear. The LWVSC Board met on September 26. Here is news that we hope you and your local League leadership teams can use.

VOTERS SERVICE/CITIZEN EDUCATION

Election-wise, this year feels quieter than 2008. However, there are important elections at the county and municipal level. Leagues continue to focus on registering and informing voters about the candidates and issues through forums and voters' guides and ensuring that all eligible citizens are able to vote and have that vote counted.

There will be an election for South Carolina constitutional offices and US Congressional seats in November 2010. The state primary election to choose party candidates for these offices takes place in June. The 2010 election calendar is available at http://www.scvotes.org/2009/03/27/2010_election_calendar.

Gubernatorial Debates. LWVSC is discussing sponsorship of a televised debate with candidates for governor before the November General Election. Our potential partners are SC AARP and SCETV. Also under discussion are televised debates for the gubernatorial primary races.

New Citizens/New Voters. Chuck Gibbs, LWVSC Voters Service VP, has been in touch with the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regarding League involvement in registering new citizens to vote at South Carolina naturalization ceremonies. Chuck is in touch with local League Voters Service directors with detailed information. You can reach him at cgibbs@sc.rr.com or 803-775-0487.

Community Forum: Beyond Coal - Energy Efficiency and Policy of Change to Bring about a Clean Energy Future. Now that plans for a new coal-fired energy plant in the Pee Dee have been scrapped, what's next? LWVSC will co-sponsor a forum on our state's energy future on Thursday, October 22, at 7 p.m., at Francis Marion University, Lowrimore Auditorium, 4822 East Palmetto St., Florence (#12 on campus map, <http://www.fmarion.edu/about/article24880.htm>).

Dr. Fred Carter, FMU President, will host a reception following the forum. A tentative schedule for the forum includes: highlights from the new South Carolina Energy Efficiency Study by American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) representative; energy policy panelists--State Senator Paul Campbell, Florence Mayor Stephen Wukela, Dr. Fred Carter; energy efficiency panelists--Glen Cannon, energy efficiency consultant; Claude St.Claire, Energy Audits; John Ramsburgh, conservation community; Ben Moore, energy efficiency specialist.

Retired US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will receive the SC Women Lawyers Association's Bissell Award at a reception in Charleston on September 30. LWVSC is a proud sponsor. The award honors lawyers who have influenced women to pursue legal careers, opened doors for women lawyers in settings historically closed to them, and advanced

opportunities for women within a practice area or segment of the profession.

Know Your State. Peggy Appler, Keller Barron and I will meet with State Superintendent Jim Rex on October 15 to present him with a copy of LWVSC's latest publication and ask that our guide to South Carolina government be certified for use in public school classrooms. An earlier version of KYS was so designated when Keller served as LWVSC President.

ADVOCACY

Legislative Priorities. The LWVSC Board is in the process of selecting bills in the General Assembly on which to focus our advocacy efforts in 2010. These bills will target priority action issues that were adopted at the 2009 Convention: taxation; public education; voter access; criminal justice; natural resources; reapportionment. We welcome member input on legislation; please contact JoAnne Day, LWVSC Legislative Action Director (803-731-5282; jvday@yahoo.com). JoAnne is also looking for League members who are interested in being part of a volunteer League Advocacy Corps to take action on League priority issues at the local and Statehouse level. Our advocacy efforts will be enhanced by with CapWiz (Capitol Advantage) which is being provided gratis by LWVUS until April. Teri Evans, LWV/Columbia Area Board member, will serve as CapWiz coordinator. So look for our snazzy new action alerts.

LWVSC Studies

1) Water Issues--This 2-year LWVSC study on water resource management was adopted at our state League convention last April. We are very fortunate that two outstanding League leaders have agreed to co-chair the study: Mullen Taylor, a LWV/Columbia Area member and LWVSC Board Director; and Joan Kinne-Shulman, a LWV/Hilton Head Island member and immediate past president of LWV/HHI. There will be an organizational meeting for the study committee on Saturday, October 10, 1-3 p.m., at Mullen's law firm, McAngus Goudelock and Courie, 700 Gervais St., Suite 300, Columbia.

This promises to be an exciting study on an issue of vital importance to South Carolina. The positions that emerge from this study will enable Leagues in our state to take action in support of responsible management of our finite water supply. Members who are interested in being part of the study can contact Joan at 843-842-9246 or RJShulman@hargray.com.

2) School District Governance and Structure--Holley Ulbrich is chairing this important 2-year study that was also adopted at convention. Holley has information about how local Leagues and members can be involved. Please contact Holley at 864-654-6828 or holleyu@nctv.com. Study materials will soon be available at the LWVSC website.

Education Action. The LWVSC Education Committee met on September 22 to strategize about how to effect legislative and policy change that are part of our prek-12 legislative agenda. The agenda, developed from our highly productive meeting in Beaufort this past summer, was adopted by the LWVSC Board in August. Members with an interest in education issues are welcome on the committee. Contact Sheila Gallagher at 843-615-0996 or scgjune@aol.com.

Voter Access Action. We are delighted that Carole Cato and Linda Bilanchone will co-chair the Voter Access Committee. Linda is a former LWVSC and LWV/Spartanburg County president;

Carole is a LWV/Columbia Board member and co-author of the LWVSC Advocacy Handbook. Both bring considerable policy and legislative experience. The committee's focus in the coming months will be on defeating the voter photo ID bill that is now in the SC Senate, blocked by a Minority Report. Look for an article in the Fall "SC VOTER" about the legislation-- A solution in search of a problem.

Legislative Interviews. In November, be on the lookout in your email inbox for legislative discussion questions on state LWV action priorities. We urge you and your members to interview your state legislators while they're in their districts on critical issues related to LWVSC action priorities. LWVSC policy specialists will use the responses to frame League action during the 2010 legislative session.

Legislative Day is set for Tuesday, February 23, at the Marriott in downtown Columbia. Our partners will once again be S.C. AAUW and the S.C. School Improvement Council. The focus will be on legislative action and policies that affect children in our state. So save the date....details will follow.

LWVSC Speakers Bureau. State board members and off-board specialists are available as resources and speakers/panel members in their areas. You can let me know your needs or contact specialists directly. We will soon be sending you a list of available speakers and topics.

MEMBERSHIP

LWV Turns 90 in February. Check out the entire page on the LWVUS website dedicated to the League's 90th anniversary. Our 90th offers many opportunities to raise awareness about the good work we are all doing--and funds for our projects.

Membership Updates. Please update your membership records in the national database so that your League's roster is as current as possible. It's important to include working email addresses for members who have them. This will ensure that new members receive LWV communications and that your League's 2010-11 membership count is accurate. We applaud those of you who are regularly updating your League's membership records. Leagues have until January 31, 2010, to make roster changes. Please contact membership@lww.org or Janie Shipley, LWVSC Member Services V-P (janrel@mindspring.com) if you have questions or need assistance with the database.

Remind your members: They can update their own contact information by selecting any webpage from the "For Members" menu on the LWVUS website and then selecting the "Update Your Information" menu item. After login with your personal email address and password, you will be taken to your "My League" (Your Profile) webpage where you can change any of your personal contact information. Select the "Submit Changes" button when you are finished. Using the menu on the left-hand side of the page, you can also subscribe or unsubscribe to any League-sponsored list and/or indicate the issue areas that are of interest to you.

Women in politics continues to be a front-burner topic in South Carolina. Let's hope the interest will lead to a correction in the lop-sided gender membership in South Carolina's elected offices. Aiken's Eulalie Salley, South Carolina suffragist and one of the founders of the

League in our state, is the subject of a documentary film being produced by USC Aiken. The film, "Edgewood," tells the story of the women who lived in the house named Edgewood, including Mrs. Salley and Frances Pickens, wife of Governor Pickens. The film is expected to premiere in March, as part of USC Aiken's annual Pickens-Salley Symposium on Southern Women. For information, visit www.edgewoodfilm.com.

"Proud Heritage," the history of the LWVSC, includes a great photo of Mrs. Salley with Governor McNair as he signed the 19th Amendment for South Carolina in 1969. Former LWVSC President Keller Barron shares that it made headlines when the governor refused to give Mrs. Salley the pen he used to sign South Carolina women's voting rights into law.

The LWV was well-represented as Furman University's Riley Institute hosted former Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin on September 21. Before her address on Women in Politics, Governor Kunin joined a panel of South Carolina women leaders to discuss the challenges women face as candidates, elected officials and activists. A long-time LWV member, Madeleine told us she got her start in politics in the League. Her book, "Pearls, Power and Politics," is a great read.

ORGANIZATION

LWVSC Budget Committee Chair. We are pleased to announce that Sharon Fennell, LWV/Clemson Area member, has agreed to chair the 2009-11 Budget Committee. Sharon brings in-depth League financial management experience as long-time treasurer for her local League.

Save the Date: 2010 LWVSC Council. This state-wide gathering of League leaders will take place on April 24 in Columbia. We cordially invite you and your members to join us.

Member Solicitation. LWVSC's annual solicitation for donations will be mailed to members in October.

The Fall SC VOTER will arrive in your mailboxes in mid-October.

The LWVSC Board will meet next on November 14, 10-3:00, in Laurel Suggs' office, 1600 St. Julian Place, Columbia. All League members are welcome to attend.

Thank you for the work you are doing for the League and for our state.
Barbara