

League of Women Voters of South Carolina

League Leaders Update

August 2010

From Barbara Zia, President

(ziab1@comcast.net; 803-251-2726)

MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

League Leaders Day--We look forward to seeing LWV leaders from across South Carolina on August 21. The LWVSC Board is working hard to plan a fun and educational event. The theme--Action, It's What We Do--is one that will mark the entire League year in South Carolina. Highlights include: a panel discussion on plugging the school to prison pipeline for South Carolina youth; an interactive workshop on the League's Initiative on Judicial Independence and Diversity, including activity planning for local Leagues; networking opportunities with state and local League leaders, and sessions on how to balance work, home and community activities, working with the media, and moderator training for candidates forums. We sincerely appreciate the many contributions of state and local LWV leaders to make LLD so successful.

Attached and at <http://www.lwvsc.org/whatsnew.html> you will find details about LLD, including the registration form. Note that August 19 is the deadline to reserve for LLD.

2010-2011 LWVSC Leaders Directory will be distributed at League Leaders Day. If you haven't already done so, please email your new League leaders list to me. The directory is a helpful resource for keeping in touch with LWV leaders statewide. Contact me with questions (ziab1@comcast.net or 803-251-2726).

State Board News--The LWVSC leadership team gathered July 23-24 at the Edisto River home of Peggy Appler for a retreat and board meeting. We called it "Rollin' on the River." Like the Edisto, the League in our state has been "rollin' along" for many years but is constantly being "regenerated" by the infusion and flow of fresh water mixing with old. Working in the League of Women Voters is challenging, educational, stimulating, rewarding, and most of all FUN! Sometimes we get so involved with day-to-day operation that we forget this. The "retreat" gave us an opportunity to get away from it all, look at ourselves from the outside and plan for the coming year.

At the meeting we appointed two new board directors:

- Rita Paul replaced Janet Marsh as Early Care & Education Child Welfare Director. Rita is recently retired from DSS and a member of LWV/Columbia Area. Janet will continue working on children's issues with Rita; in fact, she recruited Rita into the League.

- Jon Butzon replaced Sheila Gallagher as K-12 Education Director. Jon is Executive Director of Charleston Education Network and a LWV/Charleston Area member. Per our nonpartisan policy, Sheila resigned from the state board on filing to run for the SC House.

Membership and Leadership Development Initiative--The South Carolina training team kicked off the state project with a training for participating local Leagues on July 17 and 18 at The Inn at USC in Columbia. Leagues selected for the project are: Darlington County, Greenville County, Georgetown County, Hilton Head Island, Charleston Area, Columbia Area and Clemson Area. State Coordinator Janie Shipley and coaches Rebecca Lambert, Sue Myers and Joyce Franklin report that the project launch was a huge success. Even if your League is not participating directly, Janie and the state coaching team will be happy to share information

from this exciting project with you. Contact Janie at 864-885-1967 or janrel@mindspring.com.

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>

To access your local League information, you'll need your League's user id and password. Attached you'll find instructions for working with the LWVUS online database. You will want to save this important information and share with your membership chair or whoever maintains your member database. You can also access the Online Roster Reference Guide 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 or btaira@lwv.org

Janie Shipley, LWVSC Member Services VP, at 864-885-1967 or janrel@mindspring.com

Membership Expiration Date--This is a quick suggestion for the expiration date for your members on the LWVUS online database. Most Leagues bill for dues in the fall for membership beginning in January. LWVUS uses the membership totals on the database on February 1st for the next year's Per-Member-Payment (PMP). We recommend that you use the last day of the year as the expiration date for each paid member. For example, if a member pays in November 2010, his or her expiration date would be updated to 12/31/11. Thus, every person's record would be updated as s/he pays. When the membership drive in the fall is over and every member has been asked to rejoin, any members not rejoining would be changed to INACTIVE on the database, their expiration date would not be updated, and they would not be included in the membership totals for LWVUS and LWVSC when it comes to PMP.

If your League does not have your membership drive in the fall, you still have to remember that LWVUS always calculates the membership totals for each League on January 31 for the fiscal year beginning in July of that year. Even if the expiration date in the database is old, if that person's status is ACTIVE, they are included in the membership totals. Got questions? please contact Janie Shipley or me.

Student Scholarships for League Membership--LWVSC offers funding to local Leagues for free League memberships for students. Here's how it works:

- This is for new student members only--renewals do not apply.
- Students should be enrolled in a higher education program (college, university, or technical school).
- Enter the student member's information in the LWV Online System, just as you do for all your members. For Member Code, enter S1V.
- Email the names and contact information for your LWV's new student members to Dianne Haselton, LWVSC Treasurer (dhs1tn@nctv.com).
- Dianne will reimburse your LWV with a check for \$25 per student.

Sad News--LWV Bluffton Area President Tamela Maxim's father, Col. George William Harrell, Jr., passed away on July 25. The South Carolina League family extends sincere condolences to Tamela and her mother, Annelore Harrell. Tamela and Annelore can be reached at PO Box 2299, Bluffton, SC 29910, anneloreh@aol.com, or TamelaMaxim@aol.com.

VOTERS SERVICE AND CITIZEN EDUCATION

Election Calendar--Fall 2010 holds important state and local elections in South Carolina. For complete calendars of state elections in 2010, go to <http://www.scvotes.org>. Click: Elections-->Schedule of Elections and 2010 Elections. These calendars are updated as information is added from local election boards.

The State Election Commission website will provide a final listing of candidates who will be on the November ballot. Parties and petition candidates have until August 16 for certification of candidates.

SEC will have the listing on its website after this date.

Candidates Debates/Forums--Attached is criteria for statewide debates which the LWVSC board adopted recently. Laurel Suggs is in discussion with both WYFF in Greenville and WIS in Columbia who want to work with us on debates, but nothing is set yet. Please note that the League will not hold a debate with only one candidate. It is our goal to provide the voters of South Carolina with an opportunity to compare candidates face to face and to hear their positions on critical issues. It is also our intention to be completely fair to each candidate. Media are very tuned into candidate debates, including inclusion of third party candidates. Thus it is important for local Leagues as well as the state League to have established policy on candidate forums/debates. Local Leagues should adopt a candidate debate policy that will guide them in holding candidate events this fall. Questions? contact Laurel at 803-799-7050 or lsuggs@imgsc.com.

Voters Guide to Candidates--LWVSC will implement LWVUS's VOTE411.org Online Voters' Guide system to provide voters with information about candidates and ballot questions on the November ballot. JoAnne Day attended the VOTE411 session at the 2010 LWVUS Convention and came away very impressed with the software and its potential for informing the voting public. JoAnne and Karen Utter with LWV/Columbia Area, will be coordinating the project for the state League. LWVSC plans to cover statewide and federal elections; local Leagues are welcome to gather information for races for the state legislature and local offices. JoAnne will provide information about VOTE411 and its opportunities for local Leagues at League Leaders Day on August 21. Contact JoAnne with questions at 803-731-5282 or jvday@yahoo.com.

Initiative for Independent and Diverse Judiciary--Thanks to all who took part in conference calls in July to learn about opportunities for local Leagues to participate in this new Initiative. We invite you to the session at League Leaders Day to find out more. Peggy Appler will be working with local Leagues on their activities and will provide information at LLD. You can reach her at 843-688-5171 or dappler@homesc.com

This past week we brought together national and state judicial experts to discuss independence and diversity on our state's courts. At both the Columbia and Charleston meetings we heard frank and open exchanges of ideas about changes that may be needed to the judicial selection process in order to ensure judicial independence and increase diversity, and strategies to achieve those changes. The strategic planning meetings were small by design and "by invitation only." We will use the input received in planning the LWVSC Initiative on Judicial Independence and Diversity, including the fall conference in Charleston which will launch LWVSC's judicial campaign, and League activities throughout the coming year. Our guests from the Justice at Stake Campaign, Deanna Dawson and John Robinson, traveled from Washington to participate in both meetings. They provided a national perspective on

strategies to achieve a fair and impartial judiciary.

Registering New Citizens to Vote--Keller Barron, who follows immigration issues for the state League, 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. Keller will be in touch with local Leagues when a ceremony is scheduled for your area. A useful publication, "Engaging New Citizens as New Voters," can be ordered at <http://store.lwv.org/detail.aspx?ID=47>. Keller is at 803-771-4458 or kellerhb@att.net.

Women's Equality Day on August 26th is the 90th anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. Many Leagues are planning events around this day to call attention to the role of women in politics and public service. Check out materials at The LWVUS has created a customizable press template to assist you in getting the word out to local media to increase your League's visibility as well as draw attention to this special day.

SC Gubernatorial Appointments Project (SC GAP)--LWVSC is a member of the nonpartisan SC GAP coalition whose objective is to increase the number of women serving in senior level positions and boards and commissions under the administration of the next governor. The press conference to kick off SC GAP was held July 20 and drew a good representation of press and coalition members. Click here for more information. Candy Waites, the executive director, is available to speak to local Leagues about SC GAP; contact her at megan@sselectswomen.com. Information about GAP can be found at www.sselectswomen.com. Please inform your members and ask them to consider applying.

ISSUES AND ACTION

Education--LWVSC Board members are meeting with state officials and legislative advocates to develop strategy for advancing prek-12 public education funding reform in the next state legislative session. Jon Butzon, LWVSC Education Director, will have information at League Leaders Day. Please let Jon know if you or any of your members are interested in being part of the action on education (843-478-1451, jbutzon@sc.rr.com)

Two state LWV studies will come to member consensus during 2010-2011:

1. Study on SC school district structure and authority--Holley Ulbrich, Chair, 864-654-6828 or holleyu@nctv.com
2. Study on water quantity issues in South Carolina--Mullen Taylor, Co-Chair, 803-917-9931 or Mullen.Taylor@mgclaw.com; Joan Kinne-Shulman, Co-Chair, 843-842-9246 or RJShulman@hargray.com.

These studies offer exciting opportunities for the League to make a difference in public policy in South Carolina and for local Leagues to grow their membership around issues that matter to citizens. In Fall 2010, local League presidents will receive consensus questions for member consideration. We suggest that local Leagues schedule informational meetings on the study topics during the Fall. At Leaders Day on August 21, we will have lists of suggested local resources that Leagues can use to plan meetings, such as guest speakers.

Program Planning--Local Leagues should schedule a member meeting in January or February dedicated to reviewing national League program in advance of the May 14-15 LWVSC convention in Sumter. Many Leagues do this in conjunction with program planning for their local Leagues. The deadline for reporting results of your state League program planning to LWVSC is March 1. Look for program planning materials to be sent electronically to local League presidents in December. If you have questions about program planning for your local League, please contact JoAnne Day at 803-731-5282 or jvday@yahoo.com. Program planning is LWV grassroots activity at its finest.