

Hello, South Carolina League Leaders. Here is an update on what's going on with the League this fall in SC. Please share with your leadership team and members as you feel appropriate. And thanks for your leadership in the League and your communities.

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

MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

Leadership and Membership Development Training Workshop for local Leagues will take place in Florence on Saturday, November 12, from 10 am to 6 pm. Please let Janie Shipley (<mailto:janrel@mindspring.com>) know if you want to participate and have not registered (We'll fit you in). The workshop will be conducted by LWVUS membership staff member Kelly McFarland, who is coming from Washington. We're happy to announce that LWV Florence County is a new participating League in the Membership and Leadership Development Program. And Jeanette Roveri, with LWV/Sumter County, has joined the project as a coach working with local Leagues. This will be a full day of training, chocked full of information that will help us build membership, leadership capacity and League visibility, while getting everyone home before too late. We are asking local Leagues to cover participants' gas costs; the state League and LWVUS will cover other expenses.

Past LWVUS Presidents Oral History Project--Copies of League Legacy, Conversations with Past Presidents, 1977-2011, are available for \$10 each. Local League presidents should have received one copy in the mail. Please contact Barbara to purchase additional copies (ziab1@comcast.net). 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. Our thanks go to the oral history project committee members Keller Barron, Sej Harmon, Lucille Mould and Betsy Oakman who interviewed past presidents and produced the publication. The oral history will be part of the update to Proud Heritage that Sheila Haney is working on. On September 30, League Legacy was presented for archiving to the Ernest F. Hollings Collections Library at the University of South Carolina. The event was part of a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the LWVSC's official recognition by the national League.

Database Update for Your League's Members and Leaders--If you haven't already done so, 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. And remember to update your member rosters before the January 31, 2012, deadline. Local Leagues will be responsible for Per Member Payment (PMP) for all members who are listed as active in the online database on that date.

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; or

Janie Shipley, LWVSC Member Services VP, at 864-885-1967/

janrel@mindspring.com

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

New LWVSC Board Member--Donna Ambrose, a LWV/Charleston Area member, was appointed LWVSC Transportation Director by the board at our October 1st meeting. Donna brings broad experience in the area of transit and local and state government to the state League. Please add Donna's contact information to your Leaders Directory: 2768 Carolina Isle Drive, Mt. Pleasant 29466; 206-755-9823 (cell); ambrose.donna.v2@gmail.com (email). Welcome, Donna!

VOTERS SERVICE AND CITIZEN EDUCATION

Youth Voter Registration Project--Last week we learned that LWVEF is offering South Carolina's state and local Leagues a total grant of \$4,000 to support our efforts to register South Carolina youth to vote in 2012. LWVSC project coordinator Paula Egelson is checking with LWVEF regarding some of the grant's stipulations and will get in touch with local League presidents as soon as she has answers. In the meantime, please review your copy of the LWV Education Fund's new Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow training manual that accompanies the initiative. If you didn't receive a copy, please contact Paula at paulaserv@aol.com.

Judicial Independence and Diversity Initiative--Thanks to everyone who participated in the conference call on Oct. 27. We learned last week that Rebecca Kourlis had to cancel as keynote speaker for LWV/Greenville County's judicial event at Furman on Nov. 15. Speaking in her place will be Malia Reddick, who is next in line at Justice Kourlis's Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System. Dr. Reddick is one of the nation's top judicial experts and was with the American Judicature Society before coming to the Institute. We are looking forward to an informative event which will launch LWV/Greenville County's judicial website. The downtown Greenville Hyatt is offering a special room rate of \$109 to Leaguers. To reserve a room, contact Alisa in Business Travel Sales at 864-235-1234. Let her know you're with the Furman-LWV event.

Voter Photo ID--South Carolina's voter photo ID law has not gone into effect yet. As you 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-day review period during which individuals and groups could submit comments to the DOJ. DOJ has extended the review period and has requested additional information from the state about the law's impact and the state's plans for voter education. In late August LWVSC co-signed a comment letter to DOJ, arguing that the law is discriminatory.

The new requirement for a current and valid government-issued photo ID will go into effect when and if DOJ approves the law. Until then, procedures for 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 their county election office when photo ID-making equipment is available (currently the equipment is not in place); at county election offices, 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.

The state League is implementing Save All Votes (SAV), a campaign to educate voters about voting procedures, identify eligible voters who lack a required photo id to vote and help

them obtain one, 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. You can find the SAV Toolkit at <http://lwvsc.org/voterphotoid.html>. Thanks to LWV/Greenville County members for their work on producing these materials. A new pocket-size "take-away" card and flyer with voter information has been added to the Toolkit. We think you'll find these SAV materials useful for your voter registration and outreach efforts. You can find the new resources at the website and also attached to this message. League experts on the new law are available to speak to local Leagues and community groups. Please contact Carole Cato at ccato@att.net if you would like information.

ISSUES AND ACTION

South Carolina's Education Funding Puzzle, Part 2, Two Cents for Education: The Sales Tax and Schools--LWVSC just released our new publication, the second in a series of policy briefs on how public education is financed in the state. Both Part 2 and Part 1, The Education Finance Act Piece, are available for free download at <http://lwvsc.org/whatsnew.html> (LWVSC Advocacy). Thanks to Holley Ulbrich for her work on this important project designed to educate citizens and public officials about South Carolina's "education funding puzzle."

LWVSC Study: Evaluating and Retaining Effective Teachers in the Public Schools--The study committee, led by co-chairs Jon Butzon and Peggy Huchet, held a productive committee meeting on September 10. At the meeting the committee developed the scope of the two-year study, created a timeline, and made committee work assignments. Because the state will likely seek to implement some sort of teacher evaluation in the coming year, it's important for League members to be informed and able to weigh in on the discussions. Thus, the study committee has divided its work into 2 segments; the goal for year one of the study is to propose one or more positions for member consensus, possible adoption at LWVSC Council on April 14, 2012, and action. We ask local Leagues to set aside a member meeting in early 2012 for a study consensus meeting. In the coming weeks you will receive issue background papers and consensus questions. Please contact Jon (cen@charlestonednet.com) or Peggy (mhuchet@comcast.net) for more information. Study details, including a list of study resources and reading materials, are posted at <http://lwvsc.org/teacherretention.html>.

LWVUS Study: Role of the Federal Government in Public Education--Local League consensus reports are due to LWVUS by November 30. 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. 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.

LWVUS Study: Privatization--Local Leagues are encouraged to participate in this study that was adopted at the 2010 LWVUS convention. Please consider holding informational member meetings this winter and spring. Detailed information about the study, including timeline and background papers, is at <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Projects2&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedP>

[ageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=167&ContentID=17987](#). From this webpage you can join the privatization study discussion group. SC is honored to have Ted Volskay, LWV/Greenville County member, as a member of the study committee. Ted can be reached at tvolskay@synterracorp.com.

Nuclear Waste--LWVSC sent comments to the national Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future on Oct. 31. The 15-member Commission is to conduct a comprehensive review of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle and recommend a new plan. LWVSC called for a nuclear waste management plan at Savannah River Site that puts science, technology and public safety ahead of politics. To read the comments and news release, go to <http://lwvsc.org/whatsnew.html> (LWVSC Advocacy).