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September 2014



Calendar



September

M	8	Board meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Baker & Baer Conf. Rm., Main Branch of the Richland Library
M	15	Midlands Transit Riders Association September 13 th 2-4 p.m. at the Library (more on page 9)
W	17	School Discipline: Classroom to Prison? 6-8 pm, Charleston (more on page 9)
Th	18	September Public Policy Luncheon: 11:45-1:00 "The Homeless in the Midlands"



October

W-Th	15-16	SC Water Resources Annual Conference, Columbia (more on page 8)
Th	16	October Public Policy Luncheon: Lourie Center, topic TBD
W-S	22 26	Upstate New York Suffrage Tour (more on page 10)



SEPTEMBER PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 18, 2014 – 11:45 AM- 1:00 PM



Lourie Center - 1650 Park Circle
(Pickens at Blossom)

"The Homeless in the Midlands"

Carla Damron



Ms. Damron is Executive Director of the SC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience in public mental health clinics, private practice, and mental health administration.

Ms. Damron was recognized in 2000 as the "Outstanding Mental Health Professional of the Year" by the state chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. She is also a writer whose "clients are her best teachers." Death in Zooville (2010) -- a murder mystery set among the homeless, with social worker Caleb Knowles as the protagonist. Damron melds her two careers—writer and social worker— by using her novels to fight the stigma against people with mental illness.

Lunch is catered by Food for Thought at \$10 per person and begins at 11:45. Reservations are required for lunch. Please reserve by email to <mailto:SusanBJames@sc.rr.com> no later than Tuesday, September 16th.

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THE PREZ SEZ*Martha Roblee*

On August 21, we held our annual Summer Member & Guest Social. The turnout was great, including 6 guests. My thanks to those members who extended invitations to friends and associates and to Janie and Robin White, Carol Medich, and Al Roblee for helping with set up. We have a great organization and the Summer Social is one way we can make the public aware of what the League does while increasing our membership. Read Pam Craig's article on [page 7](#).



I told our members and guests at the Summer Social, the LWV of the Columbia Area will be focusing on two main areas this year – 1) voter services and 2) engaging our members to answer a “call for service.”

This is an important year for the Voter Services Committee with the November mid-term elections fast approaching. This is the first “real test” of the recently enacted voter photo ID rules. Adding to the potential confusion at the polls arising from the new rules, is the creation of a large number of new precincts in Richland County and distrust by the voters caused by long waiting lines during the 2012 elections. Adding to the voters’ distrust are the lawsuits and legislative action relating to the merger of county voter registration and election boards, the resignation of the newly hired Director of the Richland County Voter Registration & Elections Board, and the slow progress of the Richland County Legislative Delegation to appoint new members to the newly merged Richland County board. Voters in West Columbia and Chapin will also get to decide on how strong of a Mayor they want for their cities, and Lexington County voters will be faced with a very lengthy ballot due to a penny sales tax referendum to fund roads and highways.

Many thanks to Mel Jenkins for stepping up and assuming the chairperson role of the Voter Services Committee in this hectic mid-term election year. He is a great example of truly answering the “call for service.”

To address this environment, Mel and his committee will develop a plan and set goals for providing as many Columbia area voters as possible with accurate, timely and useful nonpartisan information on candidates and basic registration and voting rules and process. Already in the planning stages is a Richland District 2 School Board Candidates Forum. Sally Huguley is taking the lead to organize the forum.

The LWVCA has also agreed to be a partner in an important voter advocacy network initiative sponsored by the State League. The LWVCA is responsible for Region 4, which includes Richland, Lexington, Aiken, Edgefield, Barnwell, Bamberg, Orangeburg, and

Calhoun counties. Our short-term goal is to offer regional voter education meetings in partnership with local voter advocacy groups to educate voters regarding voting laws and their rights, to register voters, and to involve voters with the election process in their counties.

As you can see we are going to need your help! If you would like to be a member of the Voter Services Committee or assist the committee in anyway, please see Mel.

This is a perfect segue into the second area of focus. Since the League is a volunteer organization that tackles important public policy issues and carries out a variety of election-related services, it is necessary to have members actively participate to enable us to accomplish our League's goals. We are asking members to identify a job – See the available jobs list on [page 5](#) and let me, any member of the board, or a committee chair know how you would like to work for the changes you want. ***The League is You – A Call for Service!***

I look forward to seeing you at our September PPL. Our guest speaker is Carla Damron who will give us a timely presentation about the homeless issue in the Midlands.

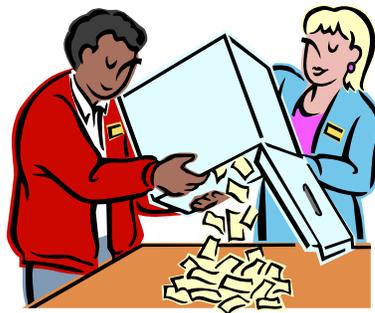
Martha

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Poll Worker Recruitment for November 4th General Election

NOVEMBER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER...



Although the Richland County Elections and Voter Registration Office has been busy adding new poll workers to our team, we still need more to ensure that ALL the precincts in the County are correctly staffed for November.

Anyone who is interested in working, call

Betsy Hill

803-576-1512 or

Email her hille@rcgov.us



THE LEAGUE IS YOU – A CALL FOR SERVICE!

Since the League is a volunteer organization that tackles important public issues and carries out a variety of election-related services, it is necessary to have members actively participate to enable our League to accomplish its goals. Members have the opportunity to get involved at all levels of commitment. We understand that, due to time and resource limitations or just because you are new to the League, you may be able to volunteer for only one task for one event or activity that may require no more than a few hours of your time. Others are able to give more time and may serve as a committee chair or on the board. No matter what the level of commitment you can give, there is a job or task in which you can get involved.

If you don't see something on the below list that you would like to do, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the board, the Volunteer Coordinator, or a committee to discuss your thoughts. Maybe we just haven't realized the role you could play, the skills you could contribute, or your particular interests.

Change cannot be made without hard work. If you have joined the League to make a change, please identify a job [from the list below—or another that you think is needed] and let us know how you would like to work for the changes you want. Please note that training will be provided as needed.

HOW YOU CAN VOLUNTEER:

Caller – Call new members to welcome them to the League; call members who have not been recently active and invite them to an upcoming event or activity; call members with regards to a specific event, activity or public policy issue (e.g. attendance at events on short notice or member socials, action alerts), or for survey purposes.

Facilitator – Facilitate a consensus or program planning meeting; a facilitator keeps the meeting group on task so that objectives are achieved within the time allotted.

Greeter – Welcome guests and/or greet members at events - guide new members and guests through the initial procedures, hand out brochures or direct to seating.

Moderator – Moderate a candidates meeting or debate or public information forum.

Observer Corps – Attend a governmental meeting (e.g., city or county council meetings or committee meetings, including special legislative sessions as identified by the board), note what happens at the meeting, and report back to the League.

Time Keeper – Serve as a timekeeper for candidate meetings or debates or public information forums. The role of the timekeeper is to make sure that each candidate/speaker does not go over the time allotted for each question, rebuttal, and opening and closing statements to provide equal time for all to speak.

Writer – Write an article reporting on a League event or activity to include the “who, what, where, when, and why” of the event or activity.

Voter Services – Volunteer to register voters at one or more community events, schools, or colleges; pick up, copy, and/or distribute voter information to members who volunteer to work at a voter services activity.

Recorder – Take notes at a consensus or program planning meeting, including any official decisions and actions taken.

Committee Member – Serve as a member on a committee formed to plan and conduct a “one-time” event (e.g., member social, consensus meeting, or public information forum) or serve as a regular committee member on the Voter Services, Membership, League Outreach or Communications committee or one of the public policy committees.

Development – Use contacts or make fundraising calls; make a contribution to the League; assist with a fund raising event.

Outreach – Identify and use media contacts and other groups or allied organizations to increase the League’s visibility in the Columbia area and to get stories/events/activities carried by the television, radio, print and electronic media.

Archivist – Research and propose document storage software program to board for approval to purchase; implement software; organize and scan League documents, and ensure their proper disposition at end of League fiscal year or on other designated schedule. Coordinate with USC Special Collections director for receipt of League papers for the Political Collections Library.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AUGUST SOCIAL



I've been coming to the socials now for more years than I can remember, and have enjoyed every one I've attended. This year was no different. The turnout was well over 40 people. However, if you had arrived early you would not have believed that it would blossom into to such a lovely event. I use the term 'blossom' so that I can mention the lovely flowers and centerpieces Lilla Hoefer donated. When I arrived, I was glad to see Janie and Robin White already there. We realize their importance to the event and their donations of wine and ice tea. Martha and Al Roblee were also there. They all came early to assist Carol Medich, in opening and closing the Club House. Thank you Carol for providing us with such a convenient and lovely location. Let me also thank all of those who donated dishes for the event. The food was of a variety that matched the topics discussed. That's what I like about the social, I caught tidbits of all types of food and conversation.

As membership chair, I should know many of you, but I got to meet Mel Jenkins, our new Voter Services Chair, for the first time. He's taking over for Shirley Geiger, who received a round of applause for the work she did this year, in particularly, registering almost 500 high school students. Several guests attended, and since I don't know all the names let me just thank members for inviting guests. We hope they can return next year as members.

Martha was like the football coach gathering up her team for the new season. She reminded us of the last season, and she started to prepare us for a new season. She pointed out that the League's work in a midterm election year was even more important because of the changes to the voting rules, and the addition of new precincts in Richland County. She pointed out that we don't all have to be president, a committee chair, or board director to do the work of the League. There are other tasks less demanding and time consuming that also need to be done. They were part of the League Lines email last month. If you see something you might be interested in, please contact anyone of your board members for more information. If you did not received a list of the job descriptions, please contact Sej Harman for a copy of the list.

Pam Craig



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

Chester Sansbury wrote a strong article published in *Free Times* on the need for a climate policy. He ties his points to the American Academy for Advancement of Science (the world's largest non-governmental general science organization). AAAS says: "There may be no more pressing issue intersecting science and society than climate change." See more information at whatwewknow.aaas.org. He has submitted a similar letter to the Charleston News & Courier. Unfortunately the *Free Times* article is not online.

Chester represents LWVSC with SC Conservation Voters, and many of their activities are open to interested citizens. They will soon be initiating their annual Common Agenda process. Contact Chester if you wish to participate with the LWV Columbia Area Environmental



WATER UPDATE:

The 2014 SC Water Resources annual Conference will be October 15-16 in Columbia. Early bird registration ends Sept. 15th. This should be a good conference to attend! Get up to date on all sorts of water related stuff.

http://www.clemson.edu/restoration/events/past_events/sc_water_resources/

Conservation Voters has updated their website – check it out at:

www.conservationvotersofsc.org/. And check out their interactive 2013-2014 legislative scorecard at: [2013-2014 Legislative Scorecard](#).

Chester also reports that **Sustainable Midlands** is encouraging promotion of efforts to remind midlands citizens to protect our streams from stormwater pollution. They are looking for groups interested in marking storm drains in their neighborhood. Interested? Send an email to: CleanWater@sustainablemidla

Lill Mood of the Columbia Area LWV provided testimony on behalf of the **Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments** at the EPA Clean Power Plan Public Hearing in Atlanta on July 29. She said, "I heard several favorable testimonies from a wide range of people with different points of emphasis. One that stands out was a man from a business organization who had excellent data on the actual increase in cost of electricity (pennies) to curb carbon emissions vs. the cost to business of a single day of severe weather (billions)."

Suzanne Rhodes has presented the League's report on *Nuclear Waste in South Carolina* to folks in Horry and Columbia, and will be presenting for a 3rd time in Columbia and then in Greenville in September. She welcomes opportunities to share information with folks concerned about the future of the Savannah River area and this country's high-level nuclear wastes.



SCHOOL DISCIPLINE: CLASSROOM TO PRISON?

Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 6 to 8 p.m.

An important community forum and discussion on South Carolina's School to Prison Pipeline

Wells Fargo Auditorium, 5 Liberty Street College of Charleston Campus, School of Business Building

Across America, the schoolyard massacre of children by their classmates has led to "zero tolerance" disciplinary policies and the incorporation of School Resource Officers in our schools. But a growing body of research shows that the effect of this new discipline has cast a much wider net than originally intended. This net has trapped a disproportionate number of minority children in the criminal justice system. Many times their offenses are youthful indiscretions that had been previously handled in the principal's office. The result is often devastating to the child, their family and to the community.

Panel members: Moderator, Professor Heath Hoffman, College of Charleston; Hon. Marlon E. Kimpson, SC State Senator; Hon. Daniel E. Martin, Jr., Family Court Judge; Esquire Susan Dunn, South Carolina ACLU Legal Director; Lieutenant Kathleen Love, North Charleston Police Department; Principal Eleanor Harvey, Gregg Mathis Charter High School. Sponsored by: ACLU of South Carolina, NAACP of Charleston, Charleston School of Law, College of Charleston, The Citadel, YWCA Greater Charleston More Information Contact: YWCA - Kathleen Rodgers, (843) 722-1644

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TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

THE MIDLANDS TRANSIT RIDERS ASSOCIATION (MTRA), will hold its upcoming General Membership meeting September 13th at the Richland County Main Branch Library, located at 1431 Assembly Street in the Bostick Auditorium, from 2-4 p.m. Meeting agenda items will include, but will not be limited to, issues pertaining to upcoming improvements in the route and fare structures, increased route times, as well as other improvement that your MTRA has achieved for you. Also future improvements in the increased routes that the MTRA is working to achieve by the beginning of 2015.

MTRA is in the process of partnering with the Richland County Public Library, which has been very supportive in aiding the bus system so that bus riders and their families will have better access to more of the Richland County Libraries. It is for this reason that a

representative of the Richland County Public Library System will be making an important presentation to those present at the meeting. The MTRA has also invited representatives of the “Comet” bus system, and locally elected officials to take part in a question and answer dialogue session regarding their various comments and concerns regarding the local transit system.

MTRA encourages all bus riders, advocates, elected officials, representatives of local government, and the press to attend this important meeting, which relates to an important aspect of economic development for our communities.

Contact **Lill Mood** if you wish to be involved with the League public transit efforts, but anyone can attend.

* * *



PURPLE MARTIN UPDATE

The decades of Purple Martins sunset viewings on Lunch Island may be behind us. Curtis & I took out friends on July 1st – there were a few birds, but decreasing numbers every time we went out after that, although until this year the flock has increased during the month of July. During the League pontoon ride Al Roblee joked about our going out to see the sunset and all the Grackles! When Curtis & I went back mid- August, there weren't even Grackles! Only one lone – and proud – Osprey – with a fish. He lighted on every snag on the island for a couple of hours. No other birds visible at all.

A DNR team has searched the island for predators, but has found no signs. Carole Cato wants to find someone on Lake Monticello with a pontoon boat to continue the League's Purple Martin tradition.

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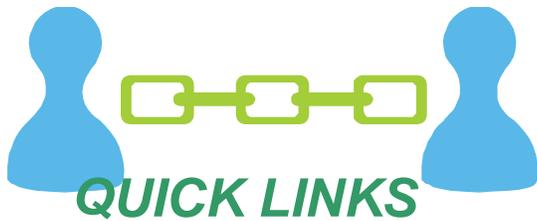
October 2014 Upstate New York Suffrage Tour

October 22-26, join the League of Women Voters of Florida as we travel to upstate New York and retrace the American suffragist movement! See the homes of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, visit the National Women's Hall of Fame, and much more.

To register click on the following link:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=jhigmrdb&oeidk=a07e9jzvv1q91648350>

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Websites:

National: www.lwv.org/

State: <http://lwvsc.org/>

Columbia: www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Facebook: To see our Facebook Page:

1. Go to YOUR Facebook page and search for the name Bria Tate. [This is the alias that will “travel” with the League’s Facebook page.]
2. Choose the “Bria Tate” with the LWV Logo.
3. Send a FRIEND request to Bria Tate and it will be accepted. You are then connected to the LWV Columbia Area Facebook page).

Twitter:

1. Go to YOUR Twitter account and search for the League of Women Voters Columbia Area and connect.

Facebook and Twitter email address:

leagueofwomensvoterscolumbia@gmail.com



Columbia City Council
 Meet: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM City Hall 1737 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201
 Check website at www.columbiasc.net for more information.



Lexington County Council
 Meet: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 4:30 PM 2nd Floor County Administration Building 212 South Lake Drive Lexington, SC 29072
 For confirmation of meeting dates, please call 785-8103 or check website www.lex-co.com



Richland County Council

Meet: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 PM
 2nd Floor County

Administration Building 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, SC 29202

For more information, please contact the Clerk of Council Office @ (803) 576-2061 or check:

www.richlandonline.com/departments/cou
ntycouncil/index.asp or www.rcgov.us



LWVCA BOARD MEMBERS

&

DIRECTORS

Martha Roblee – President, Julie Sellers - 1st Vice President, Sally Huguley - 2nd Vice President, Alan Roblee – Secretary, Rosalyn Glenn – Treasurer, Pat Manley - Director/ League Lines Production Editor

Directors: Bridget Tripp, Pat Forbis, Sarah Leverette, Pat Mohr, Missy Caughman, Rita Paul - Nominating Committee

Off Board: Chester Sansbury – Environment, Lill Mood - Transportation; Marilyn Knight - Outreach; Suzanne Rhodes - League Lines; Sej Harman – Communications, Susan James - Reservations; Pam Craig – Membership; Mel Jenkins – Voter Services



See you in October!

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