



LEAGUE LINES

Post Office Box 12541 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 665-1768 www.lwvcolumbiasc.org

Facebook & Twitter: @LWVColumbiaSC

Editor: Suzanne Rhodes/Art & Production Editor: Pat Manley

Volume: 70, Issue: 6

April 2018



Calendar April

Mon. April 2, 5:30 PM Board meeting at Jason's Deli.

Mon. & Tues., April 9- 10, WREN Summit 2018: Women's Economic Empowerment at Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Register in advance. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wren-summit-2018-womens-economic-empowerment-tickets-41323505718?blm_aid=20484

Thurs., April 19, Public Policy Luncheon - 11:45 AM at Lourie Senior Center on Climate Change.

Sat., April 28, LWVSC State Council at The Double Tree Hotel (formerly Sheraton). Register in advance. (See [page 4](#).)

Sun., April 29, 3:00 PM Reconciliation event to address Simms, Tillman, Thurmond statues on the State House grounds, at SCEA Building, 421 Zimacrest Drive, co-sponsored with Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Moderated by Dr. David Crockett

May

Fri., May 11, 5:00 PM, Deadline to register to vote in person for Primaries (unless county board holds weekend hours)

Thurs., May 17, 5:30 PM, Annual Meeting at the home of Pat Forbis. Consider bringing easy-to-eat finger food - a favorite protein, heavy hors d'oeuvre, snack, or dessert to share. Last year some lovely deserts were left over.

June

Fri., June 8, 5:00 PM, Deadline to apply for absentee by mail ballot for Primaries

Tue., June 12, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Statewide Primaries

Tues., June 26, 7:00 AM - 7:00PM Primary Runoffs

Thurs. - Sun., June 28 - July 1, National Convention in Chicago



PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON Thursday, APRIL 19, 2018



APRIL PUBLIC POLICY LUNCHEON: What can we do to address climate change? Come to the luncheon and engage in a discussion as well as learn of a legislative proposal which is attracting attention and can help us move forward. The local chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is part of the leading national organization confronting this challenge. **Chester Sansbury**, our environmental liaison and a long-time leader, will help us focus on current issues, especially climate change. **Charles Goldman**, co-leader of the CCL Columbia Chapter <https://www.facebook.com/groups/citizensclimatelobbycolumbiascchapter/> and **Casey Brayton**, a USC student actively involved in this and other issues, have agreed to participate in a panel discussion.

All League members are welcome. RESERVATIONS for a catered lunch are required no later than Wednesday NOON, April 18.

Cost of lunch: \$10.00

(Attendees may bring a lunch)

Please RSVP to Susan James: sc.susanbjames@gmail.com

or call 256-6822



ALSO INSIDE:

Article	Page
View from Rivers' Edge	2
Other News	4
PPL Recap	7
Members' Corner	10
Board Contact Information	12
Quick Links	13



FROM THE RIVERS' EDGE: In some ways, corruption resembles a disease. The early symptoms may be overlooked. Gradually the pattern of symptoms becomes more noticeable. Bystanders, busy with their own lives, pay little attention to what may appear to be minor annoyances. Casual observers don't have enough information to know exactly what is happening, but they may have an uneasy feeling that things aren't going well. A few people begin to wish they had access to a little more evidence—a few more pertinent facts. Eventually the symptoms become prominent enough for experts to be certain that something is wrong; people might even suspect they could make a definitive diagnosis—if only they had access to a little more information.

- The process may continue for quite some time, and then the unexpected happens. Someone in a position of authority makes a miscalculation, a newspaper reporter files a Freedom of Information Act request, or an oversight group discovers misconduct. A few significant facts come to light, and soon the extent of the problem is exposed. There is a clear diagnosis, and people begin to consider treatment options and choose remedies. In the same way that certain environmental conditions can favor the spread of disease, certain cultural conditions can favor the spread of corruption. When that happens, a problem that began as a couple of isolated cases can morph into an epidemic. Then researchers seek root causes and propose preventive measures. In the best of all possible worlds, corrective actions control the problem quickly. If corrective measures aren't adequate, the first few cases may grow into an epidemic.
- **Contributions of the Observer Corps:** Recent news reports have described possible corruption at several levels of government. In the past two years, League observers have attended many local government meetings, wearing their League buttons, introducing themselves to officials, and watching the public interactions. Observing meetings is a great activity for new members, and it's fun to go with a buddy who can help newcomers to learn the ropes.
- Although several different circumstances have contributed to the absence of reports in *League Lines* since last fall, the actual observations have continued. The League's watchdog role is important, and the presence of Observer Corps members has helped to promote accountability. Among the local members who have participated in Observer Corps activities are **Sharon Ayling, Dale Baer, Barbara Beeler, Rana Davis, Margaret Anne DuBose, Lois Harmon, Ann Humphries, Phyllis Jones, Ann Maletic, Anne Mellen, Pat Mohr, Janelle Rivers, Janie White, and Robin White.**
- Observation Corps members do not speak at meetings; however, they have found formal and informal ways to call attention to shortcomings, such as failure to post timely notices of meetings, failure to post agendas, errors regarding budget items and failure to follow the letter of the law regarding executive sessions. The League's published reports adhere strictly to observable facts. Consequently, when a few Observer Corps members shared suspicions that some local government groups do not seem to be well managed, League observers were not positioned to conduct inquiries into all the relevant facts. We must be grateful for in-depth investigative reporting and oversight by other government entities, which have been critical in exposing issues that clearly needed correction. The larger question is, "What about the political culture in South Carolina and in the Midlands Area which may be contributing to an environment where corruption is not addressed for an extended period of time?"
- **Insights from our book study:** Through our winter book study, *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want*, local League members have gained some insight. Authors Lappé and Eichen identify three conditions that undermine democracy: (1) concentrated power, (2) secrecy, and (3) a culture of blame.
- So, let's evaluate our governmental environment with respect to those three ideas. First, South Carolina's constitution concentrates power in the legislative branch of government, leaving county governments with limited ability to address

some of the local issues that can arise. Second, despite the League’s recent progress in promoting better ethics laws, corruption thrives where unnecessary secrecy is permitted. South Carolina needs stronger laws to promote greater transparency for individuals and for government entities. Finally, the Midlands Area and the state as a whole are gerrymandered along party lines. (For details, see <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/>.) Gerrymandering creates a situation where the vast majority of general elections in the state do not offer voters a choice between the candidates from both major parties. Non-competitive elections lead directly to voter apathy and lack of accountability. When lack of accountability leads to corruption, there’s plenty of blame to go around.

- **What can League members do?** What are the appropriate corrective measures? The rule that “the devil is in the details” applies here, but we do have some guidance. Our discussions and book study have led us to look for (1) systems that distribute power among branches of government and among voters from all income levels, (2) increased transparency requirements, and (3) redistricting for competitive elections to foster accountability. We have a general roadmap that can point toward solutions, but the voters must muster the sustained energy to demand action.



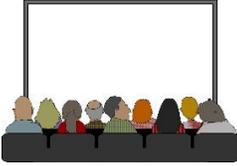
League members **Sharon Ayling, Janelle Rivers, Margaret Anne DuBose, and Christina Goodwin** share wine and conversation from our book choice, *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*. Participants not pictured are **Barbara Beeler, Marianne McGrath, Pat Mohr, and Suzanne Rhodes**.
Janelle Rivers

[BACK TO TOP](#)

* * *



OTHER NEWS



STATE COUNCIL AT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL - Get Ready for Midterms and the 2018-19

League Year. Gather at 9 am, introductions, budget at 9:15, first speaker 9:45 and adjourn at 3:00. **Register at** <http://www.lwsc.org/files/2018CouncilRegistrationForm.pdf>. 2100 Bush River Road. Park at rear of Conference Center wing, and enter Room Congaree B.

Speakers include former **SC Senator Joel Lourie** talking about redistricting strategy, USC Professor of Political Science, **Robert Oldendick**, about Primary Watching and the Changing SC Political Landscape. Breakout sessions on:

- Ready for the Primaries,
- Member Engagement and Leadership Development,
- Redistricting and Fundraising Planning,
- Proposal to generate plutonium weapon ingredients at SRS, and
- Presidents' Roundtable.

Register for great speakers, training, materials, and a buffet lunch for \$35.

* * *



REGISTER TO VOTE!



COLUMBIA AREA LEAGUE MEMBERS REGISTERED MORE THAN 450 LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE STUDENTS to vote: Columbia League volunteers worked with **Albert Robertson**, social studies coordinator in Lexington County School District One, to offer voter registration opportunities and visit selected government and economics classes in four high schools during Presidents' Week February 20-23. Participating schools were Gilbert High School, Lexington High School, River Bluff High School, and White Knoll High School. More than 450, 17- and 18-year-olds registered during Presidents' Week. These students will be eligible to vote in the June primaries and November elections.



Carol Robinson, Harriet Williams, Pat Mohr, Margaret Anne DuBose, and Janelle Rivers collaborated to create a script and PowerPoint presentation in collaboration with Lexington One staff. These informational tools were shared with teachers and used to present consistent information about voter registration procedures, women’s suffrage, statistics about elections, and voter participation in South Carolina. Students were taught how people have fought long and hard and, in some cases, been killed in the struggle to obtain the right to vote. The lesson materials included South Carolina voter participation statistics and discussion that explained why it is important for ALL voters to share their voices—their votes—to make change in our community, state, and nation!

League members and volunteers who participated in staffing voter registration tables and presenting information to seniors during their government or economics classes were **Elizabeth Jones, Sue Ureda, Robin White, Sharon Ayling, Debbie Dickenson, Phyllis Jones, Pat Mohr, and Janelle Rivers**. Other members and volunteers who participated in training and could be available for similar projects in the future are **Glenda Bunce, Susan Cirulli, Julie Sellers, Anne Morris, and Robin White**.



[BACK TO TOP](#)

More photos of the Student Registration Event and Classroom scenes



* * *



ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE: You are needed on important Issues. This year is busy for environmentally conscious voters. Control of plastic pollution, conserving our natural resources through the Conservation Bank, supporting clean energy production, and removing waste discharges to the Lower Saluda River are just some of the important issues confronting us. **Christe McCoy**, LWVSC Natural Resources Director, has organized a LWV state-wide team to address these and other issues. Here's what Christe said about the new group:

"The LWV is committed this year primarily to fighting voter suppression, redistricting, money in politics, and ethics. Those are the areas that are going to take most of the energy at the national, state, and local level. LWV has positions on such a wide range of issues that we cannot concentrate on everything at once, and we need to recognize where the focus has to be at a given time. But this is all the more reason, it seems to me, why we - this team - should keep our eye on the natural resources issues and do what we can to make sure the LWV's positions are being promoted in a way that is approved by the state board but does not put pressure or time demands on them."

And, of course, climate change is affecting us all. It impacts our health, our property, our resources, how we produce energy, sea level rise, and our economy. It has created posturing by our elected officials and created substantial environmental activism. Some of our officials have said it is a hoax or a ginned-up scheme. How do we react to these things?

Chester Sansbury

* * *



MARCH PUBLIC POLICY RECAP: Ashley Lidow, Associate Director of Policy and Government Relations for WREN (Women's Rights and Empowerment Network), managed to get away from the legislature long enough to give us a "heads up" on what's going on. Yes, our own Lynn Teague does that for us, but Ashley focuses on those bills that directly affect women. The purpose of WREN "is to build a movement to advance the health, economic well-being, and rights of South Carolina's women, girls and their families." Ashley started with the bad news first. Her goal was to end on a happy note, but that can only happen if we keep pressure on the legislators.

One of the restrictive policies being proposed via the state budget is a debate to refuse Medicaid funds for any type of family planning. The immediate problem with this is we cannot pick and choose Medicaid funds. It is either all or none. So, denying Medicaid funds would eliminate medical care for hundreds of thousands of children across the state. It would also exclude anyone from receiving state Health and Human Services (HHS) money if they associate with organizations, clinics, centers, and other types of providers that perform or promote abortions.

The "Personhood" bill persists. S217 would grant full legal rights to a fertilized egg. A question was asked: how would the recent cryogenics failure of frozen embryos be affected? WREN is keeping a close eye on that news story. Since there are presently no laws on the books, this is an example of how entangled the situation could become. Who would be charged? What would they be charged with? In addition, the idea that the rights of the egg could supersede those of the person carrying the egg is suggested. This bill could also make it a criminal act to use IUDs (intrauterine devices) and other types of contraception that interfere with implantation.

Some of these bills have been stopped because just one senator can put an objection on the bill preventing it from moving forward unless it gets a special order, which requires a 2/3 vote. Another way it can move forward is if it passes

the Rules Committee by a majority vote. The special order designation is specific to the Senate. Below is a list of the members of the Senate Rules Committee. See if your representative is on it. Do you have your representatives in your cell phone? If not, put them in so you'll be able to contact them at any time. The "Method Ban" H3548 was the last negative item on Ashley's list. This bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate. Please call your senator and ask that they focus on more important priorities such as energy reform.

The good bills are H3809 and H3865. The first one provides that insurance companies enable birth control annually, rather than monthly. If this bill should pass, we would be one of the first southern states to do so. The second good bill somewhat mirrors the ADA; however, WREN does not want pregnancy to be labeled as a disability. H 3865 accommodates pregnant women within reason (e.g. a stool to sit on, a mat on a concrete floor).

H4717 will give tax credits to companies that put in place lactation rooms, require businesses to provide break time for lactation, and require government buildings to have a room other than a toilet for exclusive use of a breastfeeding mother.

Ashley was a host of information, and you can find more by visiting the WREN website at scwren.org. Also, consider attending the WREN Annual Summit, April 9-10, 2018. Additional information is available on their website.

Kudos to Sharon Ayling who recycles everything from our luncheon meal. Even food is recycled in her compost pile.

Think about volunteering to sign up for a voter registration drive. The recent election in Pennsylvania, and the student movement of #never again are examples of the importance of "the" vote. Please contact Margaret Ann DuBose.

To track bills at the State House website, visit scstatehouse.gov, click on "search current" and the archived legislation bill act or number, put in the bill number you are looking for, and get immediate status. Pam Craig

Senate Rules Committee

[A. Shane Massey, Chairman](#)

[Ronnie W. Cromer](#)

[Glenn G. Reese](#)

[Gerald Malloy](#)

[Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.](#)

[Shane R. Martin](#)

[Chauncey K. Gregory](#)

[George E. "Chip" Campsen, III](#)

[John L. Scott, Jr.](#)

[Karl B. Allen](#)

[Thomas D. "Tom" Corbin](#)

[Tom Young, Jr.](#)

[Marlon E. Kimpson](#)

[Ronnie A. Sabb](#)

[Lawrence K. "Larry" Grooms](#)

[Floyd Nicholson](#)

[Greg Hembree](#)

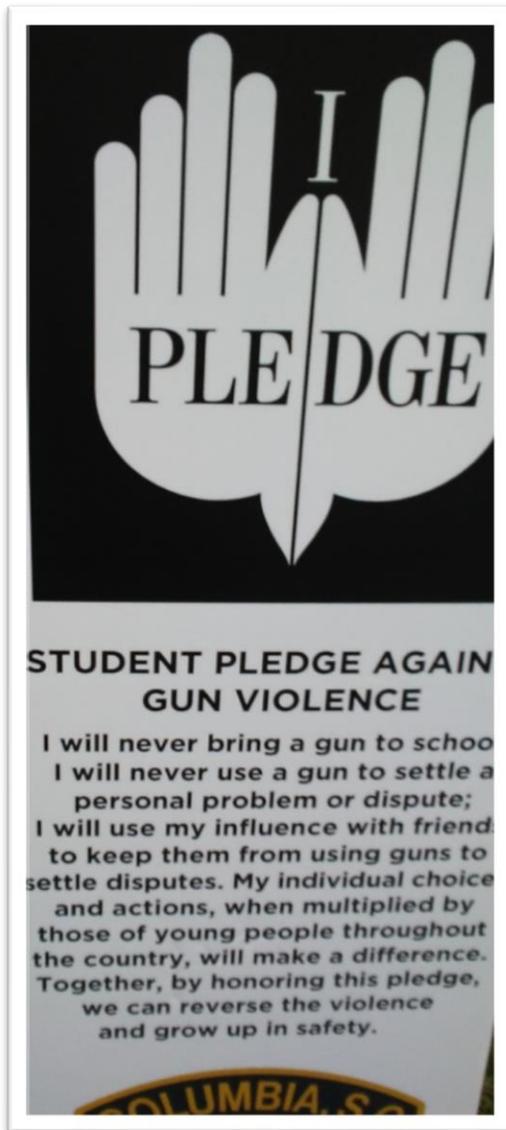
* * *

WHAT IS VOTE411.ORG ? A website started in October 2006 by the League of Women Voters Education Fund provides one central location for voters to find non-partisan election and voting information.

The LWV of the Columbia Area with the support of the state League will participate in this online guide for the party primaries June 12 and the general election November 6.

The guide will assist voters in making wise decisions by providing background information about the candidates and their answers to pertinent questions. When you enter your address, the elections in which you are eligible to vote will appear. Stay tuned for publication dates and publicity opportunities! Keller Barron

* * *



MARCH FOR LIFE: *The March and State House Rally for the protection of our children from gun violence on March 24*

I joined the **March for Life** with a few friends to show our solidarity with the young people across the country who are working so hard to share their message: “ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.” The number of people who showed up for this event was impressive, especially considering other events going on around town, such as the well-attended Heart Walk on the same day and in the same timeslot as the March. Regardless, the March for Life brought out hundreds to show their concern for the wellbeing and protection of our children who should no longer live in fear of gun violence in their schools. The State House lawn was a sea of supporters, and many adults signed the PLEDGE (inset) along with the students.

Speeches by students, City officials, candidates for future election, and young student entertainers were so impressive and so beautifully performed that there were many tears in the crowd, and I was no exception. Shouts and cheers of support and solidarity came from everyone determined to show readiness to end this issue. The strong shout out to our lawmakers to get to work was overwhelming!

Grammy nominee Angie Stone, Mayor Steve Benjamin, Councilwoman and mayoral candidate, Tameika Isaac Devine, contributed to the entertainment and speeches with spirit and compassion. Emphasis was on school safety bills now going through Congress, albeit the critical legislation banning assault weapons is moving at a snail’s pace, well behind other issues. When are we going to wake up? From what I witnessed that day, our brave and determined youth – often given a bad rap about using their phones constantly, texting while driving, and a host of negative finger pointing – are showing us that if adults aren’t going to make sure they are safe in their schools, they will stand up and do it themselves! The support of those determined children and from all of us proudly shows that *United We Stand* is not weakened, but perhaps stronger than ever! *Pat Manley*





MEMBERS' CORNER

Margaret Ann Dubose, Elizabeth Jones, Anne Morris, Laura Woliver, Ann Maletic, and Missy Caughman were at a Voter Registration table at March for Life.

Keller Barron has agreed to chair the vote411.org project

Holley Ulbricht's (LWV Clemson) article appeared in *StateHouse Report* consistent with LWVSC tax and child welfare positions and fairer to families if we conform to recent changes in the federal income tax code. <http://www.statehousereport.com/2018/03/21/ulbrich-restore-personal-exemption-to-not-penalize-s-c-families/>

* * *

THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations in 1979. As of 2012, 187 countries ratified CEDAW. Seven members of the U.N. have not ratified: Iran, Palau, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tonga, and the United States.

CEDAW reflects widespread global norms regarding women's rights and how to advance the status of women. The Convention contains three important themes:

- ✓ 1. The moral, civil, and political equality of women;
- ✓ 2. Women's rights to be free from discrimination and violence;
- ✓ 3. The responsibility of governments to achieve these goals.

CEDAW has been used by activists in ratifying countries to prevent: child marriages, domestic violence, honor killings, sex trafficking; and to encourage: equal educational opportunities for girls and women, access to health care and safe reproductive choices, access to court systems, service on juries, fair and impartial procedures regarding prosecution of sex crimes, domestic and partner violence, workplace harassment and discrimination, to name a few examples.

Efforts in the U.S. to have cities, counties, and states pass resolutions in favor of CEDAW are a response to the gridlock in the U.S. Senate regarding international treaties (international treaties require presidential support and a two-thirds positive vote in the U.S. Senate) and resistance to efforts to codify and be held accountable for the advancement of women's status.

In the spirit of these local efforts, the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area requested a resolution from the City of Columbia supporting CEDAW. Councilwoman Tamika Isaac Devine introduced the resolution. On March 20, 2018, the City voted unanimously in favor of the resolution. The Charleston chapter of the LWV achieved a similar resolution in early 2018 from the City of Charleston. Laura R. Woliver

* * *

EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY: Katharine Anne Scott Hayhoe is an atmospheric scientist and associate professor of political science at Texas Tech University, where she is director of the Climate Science

Center. She recently met with the Sierra Club to discuss strategy, and recommends we focus on the economic aspects of climate issues and not so much on the science. Also that bashing or emotionally criticizing those who don't see things as we do will not be productive. To achieve progress in converting to a clean energy society, the Sierra Club was urged to avoid its past errors of communicating negatively with others including members of Congress, legislators, and government agencies.

Each of us has seen this happen, and it has affected the credibility of some of our partners. The current Chair of the Bachman Group of the Sierra Club understands this and is a positive role model for others. The Citizens Climate Lobby is also very attuned to building bridges with all sides and avoiding alienating others. That style was also part of the focus of a talk by Senator Mike Fanning at the Conservation Voters of SC Lobby Day training in downtown Columbia.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/katharine-hayhoe-reveals-surprising-ways-talk-about-climate-change>

Chester Sansbury

* * *

[BACK TO TOP](#)

BOARD CONTACT INFO 2017 - 2018 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE COLUMBIA AREA

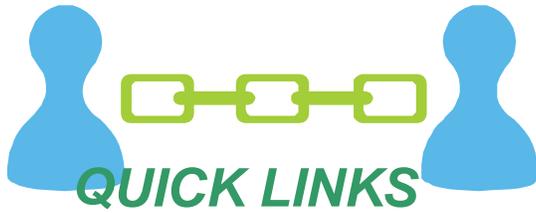
OFFICERS

President	Janelle Rivers	rivers12@bellsouth.net
1 st Vice President	Laura Woliver	woliverlaurar@gmail.com
2 nd Vice President	Christina Goodwin	christina@hotelguides.com
Secretary	Sharon Ayling	rsayling@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ann Maletic	annmaletic@gmail.com
Board Member	Barbara Beeler	babsbeeler@gmail.com

DIRECTORS/PORTFOLIOS

Government Liaison	Missy Caughman	mpcaughman@earthlink.net
Director	JoAnne Day	jvday@yahoo.com
Observer Corps Director	Pat Mohr	patmohr@mindspring.com
Voter Participation	Margaret Anne DuBose	mabdubose@att.net
Membership	Janie White	Jbwhite64@gmail.com
Public Relations Director	Phyllis Jones	ajpjm9@aol.com
Nominating Committee	Marianne McGrath	mcgrathlady@gmail.com
League Lines	Pat Manley	dancerpem@aol.com

Reservations & Nominating Committee	Susan James	sc.susanbjames@gmail.com
Communications	Laura Woliver	woliverlaurar@gmail.com
Transportation	Lil Mood	lh mood@bellsouth.net
Environmental Liaison	Chester Sansbury	csanbury1@sc.rr.com
Membership Committee	Sara McBride	mcbrideoffrankenstein@gmail.com
League Lines	Suzanne Rhodes	suzrhodes@juno.com
Nominating Committee & League Lines	Pat Manley	dancerpem@aol.com
Distribution of League Lines	Susan Cirulli	cirullisb@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Marianne McGrath	mcgrathlady@gmail.com
Tech Support for Voter Data	Duncan Buell	buell@acm.org
Historian	Julie Sellers	Jsellers13@sc.rr.com
PPL Summaries	Pam Craig	Pcraig1@bellsouth.net
Observer Corps Coordinator	Rana Davis	ranaperi@outlook.com
LWVSC Board	Pat Forbis	pforbis@sc.rr.com
LWVSC Board	Sally Huguley	shuguley@sc.rr.com
LWVSC Board	Sarah Leverette	sarahEleverette@gmail.com
LWVSC VP Issues & Action	Lynn Teague	Teaguelynn@bellsouth.net



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 begin typing "**League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**" in the search box until a list pops up.
2. Click on the name **League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC** with the familiar blue LWV Logo on the left.

That's it!

Twitter:

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

Facebook and Twitter email address:

@LWVColumbiaSC

* * *



Columbia City Council

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) 576-2060 or check:

www.richlandonline.com

BACK TO TOP

