



# LEAGUE LINES

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[www.lwvcolumbiasc.org](http://www.lwvcolumbiasc.org)

Editor Suzanne Rhodes / Co-editor Sej Harman

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## CALENDAR & NEWS

### JANUARY 2013

**7 (M) – 5:30 PM - Board Meeting –**

**NOTE:** This month's meeting is at the home of Lynn Teague, 3728 Wilmot Avenue

All League members welcome. The Board meets the first Monday of each month.

**9 & 16 (W)** Senate & House Conservation Briefings (see p. 4)

**17 (Th) – 11:45 AM – Policy Luncheon** 

**24 (Th) –** Planned Parenthood Health Systems 40th Anniversary of Roe celebration and presentation of **Barbara Moxon Award**. (see p. 4)

**24 (Th) –** Deadline for February *League Lines* articles ([suzrhodes@juno.com](mailto:suzrhodes@juno.com))

### FEBRUARY

**DATES FOR BOTH TO BE DETERMINED AT JANUARY BOARD MEETING**

**Program Planning** for local recommended programs (i.e., public policy issues for study and action) in 2013-15.

**Member Consensus** on Teacher Evaluation & Retention

**21 (Th) – 11:45 AM Public Policy Luncheon**

### MARCH

**21 (Th) – 11:45 AM Public Policy Luncheon**

**23 (Sat) –** We have been asked to participate with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in a commemorative march *celebrating women's suffrage*.

**April 27-28 - 2013 LWVSC Convention**  
Duncan, SC

## Public Policy Luncheon

**Thursday, January 17, 2013 - 11:45 AM**  
**Capital Senior Center - 1650 Park Circle**

The January luncheon will focus on **public school teacher evaluation**, a controversial proposal advanced by State Superintendent Mick Zais. Information at this lunch will be an important preview to the materials and issues to be considered at February's education consensus meetings.

Greenville attorney **Frank Holleman**, a former US Deputy Secretary of Education and state school board candidate, and **Molly Spearman**, executive director of the SC Association of School Administrators, will speak to the plan and other education issues. The school administrators association, along with the SC School Boards Association, Palmetto State Teachers, SC Education Association, and EdFirst have developed a teacher evaluation system alternative to the Zais plan.

The State Board of Education recently passed a resolution endorsing the compromise plan, which Supt. Zais rejected at the December board meeting.

**Next month**, League chapters throughout the state will meet to consider the League's position on teacher evaluation. The January policy luncheon will give Columbia League members background for the upcoming consensus meetings.

Future Public Policy Luncheons will focus on implementation of the *Affordable Care Act* and revision of the *state ethics laws*.

## Reservations

**Susan B James at [sc.rr.com](http://sc.rr.com)** or 256-6822  
**Cost is \$10 for the catered lunch or you may bring your own.**

**We'll be trying a new caterer...eat & critique!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**The Prez Says...****Rita Paul**

Happy New Year to all! It was a wonderful and meaningful 2012. Your League has much to be proud of. We also have continuing work to do in 2013!

**Highlights** of 2012 included working with Mayor Benjamin and City Council on successfully changing the date of city elections from April to the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in odd-numbered years. Many Leaguers have worked on this over the years and it was wonderful to see it come to closure. Additionally, we came to consensus and supported the recent vote for the penny tax to support our Richland County transportation system. I am sure we will continue to be involved as plans are implemented. You've seen our reports on our voter registration efforts—nothing is more important to the League!



Thanks to **Keller Barron** and her “brigade” for the fabulous 65th birthday celebration in December! What a wonderful way to close out 2012! Details next month.

Next up - During the first couple of weeks in **February** we will hold two meetings. First we will hold a **consensus meeting** on the League's education study regarding teacher evaluation. Please mark your calendar for our January public policy meeting on **January 17th**. We will be sharing important information about the study to aid in our discussion at the consensus meeting. We have confirmed that **Frank Holleman**, Assistant Secretary of Education under Richard Riley, will be with us. He ran for Superintendent of Education in 2010 and has worked tirelessly in support of quality public education in our state for many years. We will also host **Molly Spearman**, from the SC Association of School Board Administrators. Do your best to attend. [see article on page 1]

Secondly we will hold our (usually lively) annual **Program Planning** meeting. This is so important to our plans going forward and your input is extremely valuable. Both dates will be confirmed at our January 7 board meeting. **Watch for these dates.**

Hold the date for March 23, 2013. We have been asked to participate with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in a commemorative march celebrating women's suffrage. **Details to follow.**

**Pat Davy** has found it necessary to resign as Treasurer of our board. When you see her, please wish her well and thank her for her service to our board and our League. **Janie White** has “come out of retirement” to manage our account until January when **Martha Roblee** will assume Treasurer responsibilities. Thanks to *both* for jumping in when we needed it. Please let me or any member of the board know if you have an interest in assuming a position on our board. We currently have two vacancies.

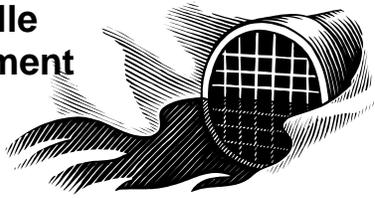
Our next League year is shaping up to be exciting, eventful and fruitful. I look forward to working with each and every one of you. **Happy New Year!**

**Rita**

**To renew or initiate League membership:** Go to [www.lwvcolumbiasc.org](http://www.lwvcolumbiasc.org), click on “JOIN US” in left menu, and choose your level of membership.

## Batesburg-Leesville waste water treatment plant progress

by Chester Sansbury



**Chester Sansbury**, Environmental Affairs Coordinator for LWV Columbia area, on December 21st submitted our review of the Batesburg-Leesville waste water treatment plant files regarding the proposed expansion, as described in the December *League Lines*.

“I appreciate the Bureau of Water’s cooperation in providing an extension of time for submitting comments on the permit application by the Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority for construction of wastewater collection facilities. After the public hearing, which I attended, the public comment period was scheduled to end 30 November. However, it was extended to 14 December, and then extended again until December 21 due to unanticipated delays in obtaining access to Bureau of Water files concerning the project.

Based on my review of the files of the Batesburg-Leesville WWTP and the application files for the construction permit there is some doubt as to whether the facility has the capacity and capability to handle the proposed additional waste. Also, I could find no discussion in the files of the “treatability of the wastewater or data from existing operating wastewater treatment facilities, which have similar wastewater and treatment systems.”

The additional waste conveyed by the new sewer line will eventually discharge via the Batesburg-Leesville WWTP to Duncan/Chinquapin Creek, which drains into the Edisto River. These creek waters are currently impaired according to the 303(d) list and violate water quality standards. According to Dr. Jim Glover, biological studies of Duncan Creek show an impaired biological system. It is likely that additional wastewater discharges to the creek would further degrade its quality, especially in light of its very low flow and increased volume of wastewater. Current drought conditions are likely to worsen the condition and make the current situation challenging. The ratio of wastewater to stream flow will heighten the risk of worsening an already degraded creek system. The increased

volume also poses a threat to the Edisto River, an exceptional river of immense ecological and recreational quality and character.

Based on the above facts and concerns it would be inappropriate for the Department to proceed to issue a construction permit for the sewer line as proposed.”

**Thanks, Chester. We look forward to updates as DHEC pursues this challenge.**

## ACCEPT ME COALITION

LWVSC joined the Accept ME coalition that supports our state's accepting Medicaid expansion to cover more than 329,000 citizens making \$15,000 a year or less. South Carolinians need the security of affordable health care. An **informational flyer is attached** which also lists the 24 (and growing) coalition members. Many of our state’s healthcare providers rely on Medicaid dollars to provide essential services and equipment.

**[see flyer attached to email.]**



## League Media Stars!

*You, too, can be a media star!*

**Rita Paul** did a segment on Frank Knapp’s radio show (1230 AM - WOIC) for **Carole Cato**. The topic was changing the date for city elections.

**Duncan Buell**, Professor of Computer Sciences at USC and State Board League leader, continued to be featured as an expert witness regarding the Richland County voting “experience” on November 6.



**I resolve to...  
be more active in  
the League in 2013!**

 **Lexington County Council**

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](http://www.lex-co.com)

 **Richland County Council**

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/council/index.asp](http://www.richlandonline.com/departments/council/index.asp) or [www.rcgov.us](http://www.rcgov.us)

Planned Parenthood Health Systems 40th Anniversary of Roe celebration on **Thursday, January 24, 2013**, 6:30–9:00 PM at 701 Whaley. The annual **Barbara Moxon Award** will be presented to George Johnson, past board chair. Cost is \$50 per person. Hors d'oeuvres, bar, music.

To reserve a ticket contact:

Will Bigger 803-256-4908 x6741 or [will.bigger@pphs.org](mailto:will.bigger@pphs.org)

The following was received from Debbie Parker ([debbie@cvsc.org](mailto:debbie@cvsc.org)) via Barbara Zia:

**SAVE THE DATE for the Senate and House Conservation Briefings!**

**Wednesday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**  
 “Conversations with Conservationists”  
 Senate Briefing in  
 Gressette Room 105

**Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 8:30 am**  
 House Conservation Briefing in  
 Blatt Room 110

Membership Coordinator position open at the Congaree Riverkeeper; **see attached application** (PDF) or contact Debbie above.

It's time to plan for what's ahead. We'd like to know what is most important to you. What do you think Conservation Voters of SC priorities should be next year and beyond? [Help us plan by taking our quick, 10 question Planning Survey here.](#)



**Happy New Year  
 for 2013**

**2012-2013 Board:** President - Rita Paul; 1<sup>st</sup> VP - JoAnne Day (Legislative Action); 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Sally Huguley; Secretary – Martha Roblee; Acting Treasurer – Janie White; Directors – Sej Harman (Communications/Membership); Marilyn Knight; Sarah Leverette (State Liaison); Lynn Teague (**Advocacy**). **Nominating Committee (2013-2014):** TBA. **Off-Board:** Voter Services - Carol Medich; Website - Teri Evans; Environmental Affairs - Chester Sansbury; *League Lines* - Suzanne Rhodes / Sej Harman (Co-Editors).